THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Satellite image shows two burning planes at Khartoum airport on Sunday | AP

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INDIAN AMONG AT LEAST 56 KILLED IN CONFLICT-HIT SUDAN

The Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary group battled for control of the nation for the second day on Sunday

KERALA MAN HIT BY STRAY BULLET IN KHARTOUM

Several loud explosions and intense gunfire were heard across Sudan's capital Khartoum, AFP reported. Albert Augustine (left pic) from Kerala's Kannur district, who was working for a private company in the capital city, died after a stray bullet hit him. The Indian embassy has advised all Indians in Sudan to take utmost precautions and stay indoors | P9

THREE U.N. WORKERS ALSO KILLED

- Three Sudanese employees of the UN food agency were killed in the restive Darfur region, forcing the group to suspend its work
- Large-scale violence erupted on Saturday amid a power struggle between the commander of the country's armed forces, and the head of its main paramilitary force — the Rapid Support Forces

4,000

INDIANS LIVE IN SUDAN, AS PER OFFICIAL DATA. ABOUT 1,200 ARE SETTLED THERE

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Newborn taken away from Vani Vilas Hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN another case of kidnapping of a newborn, an eight-day-old baby boy was taken away from Vani Vilas Hospital in the early hours of Saturday. The police are verifying the CCTV footage to trace the woman who kidnapped the newborn.

Prasanna MP, a resident of Madenoor village of Tiptur taluk in Tumakuru district, has filed a complaint with the VV Puram police, stating that he had admitted his wife Suma HK to the hospital on April 6 and she gave birth to a boy the next day. The baby was healthy but as the mother had a low count of white blood cells, the doctors advised her to stay in the hospital for a few more days. While the complainant, a painter, returned to his hometown, his relative Nagamma stayed with the mother and the newborn, who were in room no. 1 of the annexe ward.

"Around 4am on Saturday, the mother fed the baby and fell asleep. When she woke up about 30 minutes later, the baby was missing. She enquired with the hospital staff who had no clue. The relative Nagamma was also sleeping when the baby was kidnapped. Later, Suma informed her husband, who rushed to the city to file a police complaint," the police said.

When the police checked the CCTV footage, it was found that a woman wearing a saree kidnapped the newborn in her vanity bag. "We have formed special teams to rescue the boy and nab the culprit," the police said.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, flanked by AAP leaders, addresses a press conference before his visit to the CBI headquarters for questioning on Sunday | PARVEEN NEGI

CBI quizzes Kejri for nine hours in excise policy case

Delhi CM asked about his links to the accused

AMIT MUKHERJEE @New Delhi

THE CBI on Sunday questioned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for nine hours in connection with its probe into the Delhi excise policy, which was allegedly tweaked to benefit some traders, causing a ₹2,873 crore loss to the exchequer.

After the marathon questioning, which happened amid protests by his party, the Aam Aadmi Party leader left the CBI headquarters in Delhi around 8.30 pm on Sunday after being quizzed by the agency throughout the day. Kejriwal had arrived at the headquarters around 11 am after being summoned under Section 161 of the CrPC as a witness.

Section 161 Code of Criminal Procedure allows 'examination of a person as witnesses' and provides for oral examination by any investigating officer on assumption that the person might be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of a case.

According to sources, Kejriwal was asked about his role in the scam and also his associations with some of the top accused such as Sameer Mahendru and Vijay Nair. The CBI also quizzed him on allegations that many decisions regarding the excise policy took place at his residence in his presence.

Before arriving at the CBI office, Kejriwal posted a video message on Twitter claiming the BJP has ordered the agency to arrest him. While leaving his house for the CBI headquarters, Kejriwal told the media that "some anti-national forces don't want India to develop". He said, "For 75 years those forces had stalled India's progress but now India won't stop. I want to tell these forces that the country will continue to progress: People of India want the country to progress."

This is the first time the Delhi CM has been summoned in the excise policy case. Kejriwal's name came up in the ED's second chargesheet filed before a special court on January 6. According to the ED, Kejriwal told accused No 1 Sameer Mahendru that Vijay Nair was his 'boy' and can be trusted.

56 questions

Kejriwal said 56 questions were posed to him. "I answered them all... as I said earlier we have nothing to hide," he said, terming the case 'false, fabricated and motivated by dirty politics'. "We will die but not give up honesty," he said

Atiq shooters sent to 14-day judicial custody

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE UP police on Sunday registered an FIR against three persons — Lavlesh Tiwari, Sunny and Arun Maurya — in connection with the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in front of Colvin hospital of Prayagraj on Saturday night.

The brothers were shot from point-blank range by the assailants, who had disguised themselves as media persons.

The shooters were produced before a local court on Sunday evening and were sent in 14-day judicial remand. The next date of hearing is April 29.

The three assailants were booked under Sections 302 and 307 of Indian Penal Code along with Sections 3, 7, 25 and 27 of Arms Act. According to police sources, the trio fired 44 shots at the gangster brothers, who died on the spot.

Sources said the killers used Zigana .45 bore pistol, a Turkish weapon which was used to kill Siddhu Moosewallah in Punjab. While the assailants were emptying their weapons, they were overpowered by the cops. In the melee, a constable Man Singh, who was part of the police escort, received a gunshot wound and a journalist also sustained injuries.

As per the FIR, among the three attackers, Lavlesh Tiwari, 22, of Banda and Sunny alias Mohit Singh, 23, of Hamirpur are history sheeters. While Tiwari had five cases against him, Mohit, a member of Sunder Bhati gang of western UP, has 13 cases against him.

Arun Kumar Maurya had also gone to jail in connection with a criminal case in Panipat, where he lives with his grandfather.

According to the FIR, the three assailants admitted to their crime saying they wanted to earn a name for themselves by eliminating the Atiq gang.

The autopsy was carried out in Prayagraj by a panel of five doctors. The last rites of Atiq and Ashraf took place at their family graveyard in Kasari-Masari, where Atiq's son Asad was laid to rest on Saturday.

Police stand guard outside a court in Prayagraj where three suspects were produced; (Right) suspects Arun Maurya, Sunny Purane and Lavlesh Tiwari | PTI

Shettar quits as MLA, meets top Cong leaders, may join GOP today

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

SENIOR BJP leader and former chief minister **Jagadish Shettar** on Sunday resigned as member of the Legislative Assembly, but made it clear that he is not resigning from the primary membership of his party yet.

When he met Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri in Sirsi to submit his resignation, the latter tried to convince him to change his mind, but Shettar was adamant. It is said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah too called Shettar and had a detailed discussion with him.

After denying Shettar the Hubballi-Dharwad Central Assembly ticket, BJP tried hard to retain the six-term MLA. Sources said he was offered a ministerial berth in the central government, Rajya Sabha membership, a governor's post and also the party ticket to any of his favourites, including family members. But Shettar refused to bite.

After submitting his resignation to Kageri at 12.30 pm, he said he will not blame anybody and has high regards for both PM Narendra Modi and Shah. He said he was upset with the way the party treated him recently.

Later in the night, he met AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC president DK Shivakumar, senior leader Shamanur Shivashankrappa and others. Congress sources said he is likely to join the party on Monday.

With this, BJP has lost two senior Lingayat leaders in the last few days. On Friday, former DCM Laxman Savadi too bid bye to the saffron party to join the Grand Old Party.

Congress leader MB Patil tweeted, "Lingayats are not treated as the core of BJP, but merely a vote bank. Karnataka will witness a new massive political churn because of how Lingayats were mistreated by the BJP and specifically two vested common interests. Lingayats are set to return HOME to the Congress in 2023." P4

BJP to lose MP Karadi Sanganna too

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Koppal

BJP that is witnessing some big-ticket exits of late will lose Koppal MP Karadi Sanganna too as he has decided to resign as member of Parliament on Monday. Again, the pain point is the denial of a party ticket to contest the May 10 Assembly polls.

Sanganna, who was one of the aspirants, had also demanded a ticket for his son Gavisiddappa Karadi. But both have not found their names in the BJP list of contestants. Sanganna on Sunday met his followers at his residence in Koppal to get their opinion.

Sources said Sanganna will go to New Delhi in a special flight and tender his resignation. He is likely to join JDS and contest the election. P4

EXPRESS READ

US is India's biggest trading partner in FY23

New Delhi: The US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23 on account of increasing economic ties between the two countries. Provisional data shows bilateral trade between India and the US has increased by 7.65% in 2022-23. P10

4 Indians among 16 killed in Dubai apartment fire

Dubai: A fire swept through an apartment building in an older neighbourhood of Dubai, killing at least 16 people, including four Indians and injuring nine on Sunday. The Indian Consulate in Dubai confirmed that four Indians were among the dead. P9

JAGAN'S UNCLE

HELD IN VIVEKA MURDER CASE

The CBI on Sunday arrested Y S Bhaskar Reddy, an uncle of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, over the murder of Vivekananda Reddy, a former MP and brother of late Andhra Pradesh CM Y S Rajasekhara Reddy | P5

A century, MI win and Tendulkar debut

KKR's Venkatesh Iyer smashed a ton but it went in vain as Mumbai posted their second win. It was also a match that witnessed Arjun Tendulkar make his maiden appearance in IPL. Talking points...

IYER ENDS 5,476-DAY DROUGHT

The last KKR batter to score an IPL ton was Brendon McCullum in the opening game of the 2008 season. After 5476 days, Iyer became the 2nd KKR batter to do so as he smashed 51-ball 104 against MI, taking team total to 185/6. But it wasn't enough.

TENDULKAR BACK IN WANKHEDE

Arjun Tendulkar, son of the India great Sachin Tendulkar, opened the bowling for MI in his first-ever appearance in the league. They become the first father-son duo to have played in the IPL | P11

SAMSON, HETMYER TAKE RR HOME

Chasing 178 against Gujarat Titans, Rajasthan Royals lost early wickets, but Sanju Samson and Shimron Hetmyers smashed fifties taking the game deep before the latter finished off the game in style in the final over of the match | P11

Release caste census data, remove quota cap, Rahul tells Modi govt

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI & V VELAYUDHAM @Kolar

IN a strong rebuttal to BJP's allegations that he insulted the OBC community with the 'Modi' surname remark that led to his disqualification as an MP, Congress senior leader Rahul Gandhi here on Sunday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) that was initiated by the Congress-led UPA government in 2011.

He asked Modi to remove the 50 per cent ceiling on quota to provide reservation to communities proportionate to their population.

Addressing the Jai Bharat rally, his first public meeting after being disqualified, he said, "There are only 7 per cent people belonging to OBCs serving as secretaries, who are the backbone, in your government. There should be sharing of power proportionate to their population. If you (Modi) do not release the census data, it's an insult to OBCs. The data will reveal their population and the opportunities given to them."

Rahul was cautious while addressing the huge crowd as in his entire speech, he did not mention Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi, and his eviction from Delhi quarters. He, however, chose to target the relationship between Modi and Adani, alleging that it is proving to be dangerous for the country.

CONTINUED ON: P2

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge share a light moment during the Jai Bharat rally in Kolar on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

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Fight to get votes, not CM's post: Kharge

AICC president slams Central government for hounding Rahul Gandhi over Modi surname controversy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolar

AMID clamour over chief ministerial candidate in Congress, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge decided to take the predicament head-on and address it in the presence of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his Jai Bharat rally in Kolar on Sunday, sending out a clear message that bringing the party to power is paramount, and not who will be the chief minister.

"Whoever wants to become chief minister is irrelevant to me. I want a Congress government here [in Karnataka]. We need to implement projects like distribution of milk and nutritious food to children which was started by [former prime minister] Indira Gandhi. The chief minister will be chosen after the verdict of the people. We need to join hands for this. Give 150 to 160 seats to us. It is not an impossible task," he said.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge speaks at the Jai Bharat rally in Kolar on Sunday | EXPRESS

He harped on the comments of former chief minister Jagadish Shettar calling the present dispensation led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai corrupt, and said that Congress should come to power.

Taking a dig at the central government for allegedly hounding Rahul for his Modi surname comments in Kolar during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he said that though the comments were made in Kolar, an FIR was filed in Gujarat. "Within 22 days, a judgment came against him and he was disqualified. Within 24 hours, he was sent a notice to vacate his bungalow. Electricity and water supply connections to the bungalow was also cut off. Is this a democracy?" he said.

Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah is trying to manufacture milk scarcity in the state so that there is no pushback to his attempts to merge KMF and Amul. "The milk production in the state has fallen to 22 lakh litres per day from 81 lakh litres per day," he claimed.

KPCC president DK Shivakumar said that BJP's prospects are gradually dwindling as 43 leaders have already joined Congress and many more will join soon.

Aim for 150 seats or BJP will topple govt: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi exuded confidence on Sunday that if the party leaders work unitedly, Congress will win the Assembly elections, and attacked BJP for "spreading hatred and attacking various institutions in the country".

Bharat Jodo Auditorium

After inaugurating Indira Gandhi Bhavan at the KPCC office in Bengaluru along with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul said, "Everyone knows how the BJP is spreading hatred in the country. As Congressmen, our responsibility is to protect this country. The New India should be protected from RSS and BJP."

Upbeat about winning elections, he said, "There is unity among our party leaders. All the leaders have walked together during the Bharat Jodo. If we work unitedly, the party will win."Lashing out at the state government, he said, "The BJP government in Karnataka is a hallmark of corruption. BJP leaders have not done anything in the last five years, and the people have realised that." Rahul also assured they will implement all the four pre-poll promises if they come to power.

"We have to win at least 150 seats, and not aim for a victory by slender margin. It will be of no use. The BJP government could use the money they have amassed by looting people to topple the government," he said.

KPCC president DK Shivakumar said, "After Mallikarjun Kharge took over as the party president, the party is moving in a new direction. A person, who was a block president, is now the AICC president. This is a testimony to the democratic set-up of the Congress."

Shivakumar revealed that it was Kharge who suggested that the building be named after former prime minister Indira Gandhi. "If the Congress wants to remain strong in the country, only the Gandhi family can ensure that. Congress' history is the history of this country. The party has united the country in difficult times," he said, adding that a hall has been named Bharat Jodo Hall in memory of Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra that cris-crossed the country.

(Top) People head for the venue of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Jai Bharat rally in Kolar on Sunday; Rahul buys Nandini ice-cream from a stall to beat the heat | NAGARAJA GADEKAL / TWITTER

Rahul a fan of Nandini ice-cream

Amid the Nandini vs Amul battle, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday bought a Nandini ice-cream, and called the brand "Karnataka's pride." As he relished his ice-cream to beat the heat, flannked by KPCC president DK Shivakumar and party general secretary K C Venugopal, he also described Nandini, the flagship brand of Karnataka Milk Federation, as the "best." Congress state unit leaders have accused BJP of conspiring to merge Amul and KMF. Rahul later posted his photo on Twitter with a caption, "Karnataka's Pride - NANDINI is the best!".

Will regularise your services, Rahul tells pourakarmikas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER his Jai Bharat rally in Kolar where he launched a tirade against Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government on the Adani issue, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrived in Bengaluru, and assured pourakarmikas that their services will be regularised if his party comes to power.

In March, the state government had acceded to the demands of pourakarmikas who were protesting for months.

After assuring that Congress' pre-poll promises will be approved in the first Cabinet meeting itself if Congress comes to power, Rahul sought to assure pourakarmikas in Bengaluru regarding their demand during a meeting on Sunday, where street vendors were also present.

During discussions as pourakarmikas poured out their grievances, Rahul said he would provide exclusive housing clusters for both groups across the state. He also guaranteed separate spaces for street vendors and hawkers (hawker zones) in various parts of the state to carry out their businesses. To support their small businesses and help them become large-scale vendors, Rahul also promised a financial scheme for them and easy access to bank loans.

During the meeting, pourakarmikas also complained that they have no access to health insurance, toilets and drinking water facilities while they are on their shift. They demanded pension after retirement and job security for spouse in case of death on duty. Rahul promised that they will unveil a health insurance scheme for them as the nature of their work is extremely risky.

The president of Street Vendors' Association proposed that a separate board be set up so that grievances are resolved quickly. Rahul assured that not only will he ensure that the board is set up but their other issues will also be addressed.

It's sympathy versus development in battle for temple town

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

IF assembly elections in Mysuru district are fought on party lines, polls in 'Dakshina Kashi' Nanjangud have set a different narrative, that of 'development vs sympathy'. Campaigning has picked up in the last couple of days but it is difficult to feel the pulse of the voter, and empathy or development will win the day.

Although former KPCC working president R Dhruvanarayan has expressed his desire to contest from Nanjangud, along with former minister HC Mahadevappa, his untimely demise has led the Congress high command to field his young son and law graduate Darshan Dhruvanarayan to test the political waters.

Former minister H C Mahadevappa visited Dhruvanarayan's house and announced that he would withdraw from the race, and promised support to Drashan. The veteran's gesture was much appreciated in political circles, and has given a fillip to Darshan, who lost both parents within the span of a month. Darshan is banking on his father's charisma and development works carried out as a Parliament member for 10 years, and his connection with party cadres, cutting across caste lines.

BJP MLA Harshavardhan managed to bring in more than Rs 1500 crore and launch tank filling projects, besides funds for improving basic infrastructure, and the construction of bhavans could fetch him dividends for a second term. He is also banking on the large following and charisma of his father-in-law and BJP MP V Srinivasa Prasad, known for making strategic moves in the election. Sensing the strong sympathy wave for Darshan, Prasad got in touch with grassroots leaders and is reaching out to people on the development plank.

The BJP claims that the entry of senior Lingayat leader V Somanna in Varuna constituency has boosted the party morale, as ripples of a serious fight between the Lingayat leader and Siddaramaiah will have its impact in neighbouring Nanjangud, that has a high Lingayat, Dalit and Nayaka population.

Former MLA Kallae Keshavmurthy is leading the campaign from the front, along with former ZP chief SC Basavaraj and other loyalists, and is confident the people will vote out of love and sympathy for the Dhruvanarayan family.

Nanjangud constituency has always witnessed a triangular contest, but this time is set for a keen and straight fight between the BJP and Congress. The JDS does not plan to field a candidate in Nanjangud. Former minister G T Devegowda and Sa Ra Mahesh have taken it up with H D Kumaraswamy to make a formal announcement, while a few ticket aspirants have prevailed on their leaders against taking any such decision, as Nanjangud has always been a stronghold of the Congress and Janata Dal.

However, after Nanjangud was declared a reserved constituency in 2008, the Congress managed to win three terms, including a byelection in 2017 after Srinivasa Prasad quit the party. The change in political equations and polarisation of voters gave the BJP an edge to win the seat in 2018.

PULSE-O-METER
NANJANGUD
2018 ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULT
Harshavardhan — 78,030 VOTES
Keshavmurthy — 65,551 VOTES

WHO INVESTED ₹20,000 CRORE IN ADANI'S SHELL COMPANIES, ASKS RAHUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HE claimed that he is being snubbed in the Lok Sabha and his disqualification came in the backdrop of raising issues of malpractice of industrialist Adani and his defence infrastructure company allegedly having a Chinese as a director.

He alleged that Modi favoured Adani by getting him contracts and investments into his benami companies illegally. It was because of these issues that he was being stymied in Parliament and the Speaker failed to help when the ruling party members stalled the session, he claimed.

"The Prime Minister should tell us whose Rs 20,000 crore was invested in Adani's shell company. Disqualify me, put me in jail, do anything, it doesn't matter. I will never stop asking this," he said.

"India's airports were given to Adani by changing the rules, though he had no experience. For instance, huge amounts of loans were granted to him by banks to take up the Mumbai airport project. Whichever country Modi visited, including Australia, Sri Lanka and even Bangladesh, the deals were struck in favour of Adani. He also got the contract for defence infrastructure during Modi's Israel visit. As I raised these questions, the ruling BJP government and its members did not allow Parliament to function," he alleged.

Attacking the Basavaraj Bommai-led Karnataka government, he said it indulged in massive corruption and contractors wrote about it to Modi. "Why did the Prime Minister not reply to their letter? His silence amounts to admission of corruption in the government," he said.

He said Congress has promised 200 units of free electricity to every family, ₹2,000 every month to housewives and ₹3,000 to graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders, who are unemployed. "In some days, Congress will form the government and we will fulfil all these promises," he asserted.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

17th April: The universe is full of wild and wonderful things. Here's one: if you were to look at the smallest known particles through the most powerful microscope, you wouldn't be able to work out both where it is and where it's going. You could do one or the other, but not both. Now some scientists are saying the same rule might apply to bigger things - such as you and me. Well, that would certainly account for some confusion!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The fact that the Moon is in such a friendly relationship to your sign should surely help you give yourself a leg up today. Don't depend on others to carry out your requests, but don't subordinate yourself to their wishes, either. And don't be complacent!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
I'd like to take a quick look at a long-term cycle and point out that Mars, a most impetuous planet, is making this rather an extravagant time. If your costs haven't escalated already, they soon will! Your job is to make sure that it's all worth it.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Let's check out Mercury, the planet responsible for your chatty ways. Right now you are being urged to do something practical with your ideas and, if you don't take that important step towards a new activity soon, you could become rather frustrated or resentful.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
I often think that yours is one of the most perfect signs of the zodiac, but so often your life seems to be full of struggles. Yet, looking at the long-term, it is now a simple matter to forecast increased prosperity and comfort - but only if you dodge the next few days' worth of emotional flying bombs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The weekly trend shows that you should now begin to bring financial plans to a conclusion. If you've been dreaming about a particular investment or bargain but have made no positive moves, get on with it. But more than that, you're heading for a fresh start in whatever area you choose.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Venus and Mercury are still closely related, encouraging everything that is most sociable and charming in your character. However, it now seems that unless you take the initiative, one possibility, perhaps a promised partnership, may slip from your grasp.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
This is now a special time of year. I cannot promise that the next four weeks will be easy but, even in small ways, they will be significant. In fact, in a strange sense, the more obstacles you meet, the greater your chances for success. The acorns which fall now will, as the saying goes, grow into mighty oaks as the years go by.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Strangely enough, contradictory planetary influences often make for the most productive periods. The fact that you are entering a secretive period, while still going through a sociable phase, is therefore likely to lead to some highly intriguing encounters over the next two or three weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Professional arrangements still seem to dominate the outlook. If you've been having one or two sleepless nights, something is definitely wrong. The underlying trend for all worldly ambitions is actually profoundly favourable. You just have to get through the next few days with your dreams and plans intact!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
As from now, you are entering an ambitious phase that will see professional types redoubling their efforts to get on and get ahead. There seems to be a chance coming up soon to play some sort of diplomatic role in your community. Just how and when is up to you and your sense of timing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You must soon be the lucky recipient of a windfall, although I don't think you're going to be showered by cash from heaven. It might be that money is not involved, but that you'll be swamped with affection. The source of the upcoming generosity should be someone who is well-known to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
The Moon elevates your thoughts today. It would be very nice if you could take some time off to be a vague, dreamy sensitive Piscean and avoid the traps set by those who wish to lure you into a dull and unsatisfying routine. Plus, if I were you, I'd steer clear of people who have nothing to do but cause trouble.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

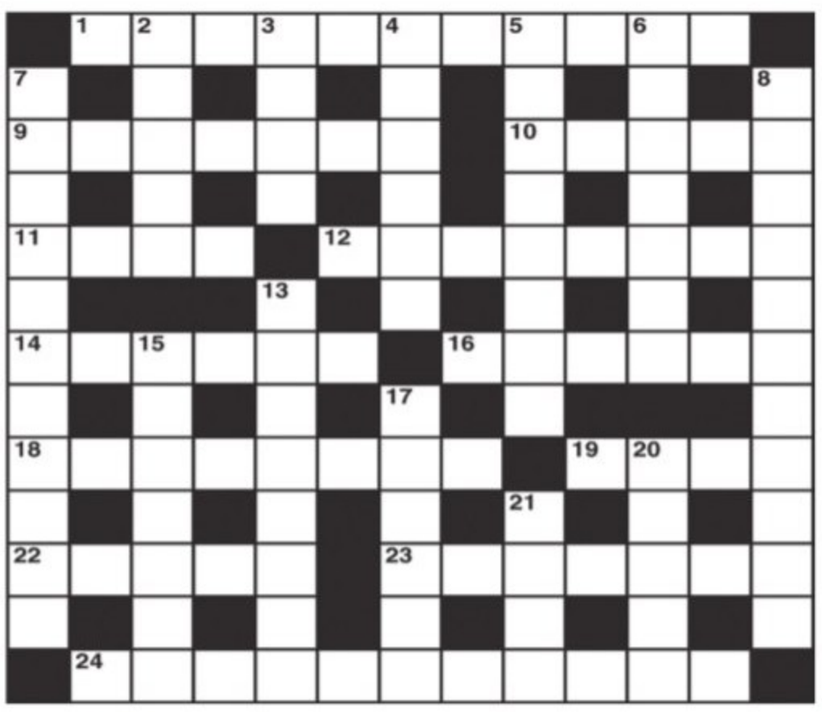
		8	1	5				3
		5	4			9	2	
	1				3			5
	6			8		7		
		3	7	4	2	5		
		1		6			4	
1			5				9	
	8	9			6	3		
3				9	4	1		

8	7	2	1	4	3	6	9	5
5	6	1	7	9	2	8	3	4
3	4	9	5	8	6	1	7	2
7	1	8	9	6	4	2	5	3
6	2	5	3	7	1	4	8	9
4	9	3	8	2	5	7	1	6
1	5	4	2	3	8	9	6	7
2	8	7	6	5	9	3	4	1
9	3	6	4	1	7	5	2	8

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 It may have a good nap on the flight (5,6)
9 Sphere of vision (7)
10 A bit of audible tranquillity (5)
11 Open to defeat (4)
12 His work often figures in art exhibitions (8)
14 Company doctor at a fight (6)
16 Animal hunt (6)
18 Got there perhaps but not by oneself (8)
19 Extended desire (4)
22 Not those in the services (5)
23 Bent axle pin to account for (7)
24 Too mindful of others to create wanton desecration (11)

DOWN
2 Material for a Scottish banker (5)
3 The one at the front is a Russian (4)
4 Bill comes up with a new coil of fabric (6)
5 Drove off disgusted (8)
6 Builder puts a point to a parson (7)
7 What a revivalist may do? (11)
8 A person of intelligence no doubt (6,5)
13 See her in pants at the zoo perhaps (8)
15 New game not of interest to motorists (7)
17 Give protection though fed up before the finish (6)
20 Love to have a role in pictures (2,3)
21 Fight blows up (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Bureau, 4 Scabbard, 9 Craven, 10 Drainage, 12 Wits, 13 Uncle, 14 Purr, 17 Sports master, 20 Feeling swell, 23 Ties, 24 Gypsy, 25 Loom, 28 Diameter, 29 Nation, 30 Obdurate, 31 Debars.

Down: 1 Backwash, 2 Reaction, 3 Abet, 5 Carelessness, 6 Bait, 7 Abacus, 8 Dreary, 11 Unemployment, 15 Steep, 16 Verse, 18 Semolina, 19 Elements, 21 Studio, 22 Remand, 26 Lear, 27 Safe.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

INNOO
STIHO
GETIHW
TREATO

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" "
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FACET ARENA HEYDAY ABACUS
Answer: There's ice below the surface at some locations on Mars that may one day — BE UNEARTHED

A man was shot dead by unidentified people at Thora village of Kedamulluru Panchayat in Virajpet taluk, Kodagu, on Saturday. The police are looking for the accused even as other suspects are being interrogated. A property dispute is suspected to be the cause of murder. The deceased, Baimana Madhu (44), was a resident of the village, and was working at a factory in Bengaluru

From Chennai with love... BBP to get male white tiger

3-year-old will be housed in tiger safari area

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) management is getting a male white tiger in a week from Chennai to give company to the lone white female tiger at its facility and to increase the numbers of these albino cats.

The three-year-old male tiger is being brought in exchange for a lion, under the animal exchange programme. It will be housed in the tiger safari area after the due quarantine procedures, BBP Director Sunil Panwar told The New Indian Express. "The male tiger will arrive at BBP next Friday," he said.

The male tiger is being brought to be a companion to a six to seven-year-old lone female white tigress. The staffers said that they will have to see how their compatibility is.

Zoo keepers said that at present, the female white tigress is bonding with a Royal Bengal tiger and is suspected to be pregnant. "We are hoping that the cubs born are white, so that their numbers increase. We earlier had white tiger cubs, but they died due to various reasons," the zoo officials said. The zoo houses 17 tigers, 20 lions and 64 leopards (of which 50 are rescued). Zoo officials said they have the highest number of leopards as all the rescued ones are brought to BBP.

"Whether the leopard or a cub is rescued by citizens, farmers, activists or even the forest department, they all are brought to BBP. We are housing them in the rescue centre and in enclosures away from people. This is because rescued wildlife is not for display as per the Central Zoo Authority norms. Only the leopards born in-house are only on display. We are keen to give away our leopards, but because of increasing rescue operations and their nature, zoo managements are reluctant to house many leopards on their premises," said the officials.

Leopard caught, residents seek strict action

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING several leopard sightings on the outskirts of Bengaluru in Kommaghatta near Kengeri, residents breathed a sigh of relief after a leopard was trapped on Saturday.

A leopard fell into a snare set by the Karnataka forest department near a local farm. While its capture has allowed residents to feel safer, the presence of about 5 to 6 notorious leopards attacking local farm animals still haunt the area. The officials set traps in the area, heeding to several complaints from Sri Bapuji Nursery and Farms, where a majority of the attacks occurred.

Somashekar, owner of the farm, said apart from farm animals being killed, the residents also feared travelling to work or sending kids to school. Several settlements and villages encroach forest areas, which make them vulnerable to frequent wildlife attacks on cattle and stray dogs. Residents faulted both, the forest department for not taking strict actions, and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for forming layouts in areas which are at risk of wildlife attack.

SMILING START

Tennis player Sania Mirza inaugurates WeLittle's preventive paediatric dentistry clinic, well-equipped with advance facilities and play areas for children in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Jolly ride on superbike proves fatal for youth

BENGALURU: A jolly ride on his new BMW bike proved fatal for a 22-year-old youth after his new bike collided with a car on Sunday. The deceased, Ashish Kumar, a native of Punjab, was an engineering graduate residing in BTM Layout. The police said Ashish had recently purchased a BMW bike and was going to Nandi Hills with a group of friends. While riding near Kannamangala Gate on the International Airport Road, a car driver passing on the adjacent lane came closer without signalling and grazed Ashish's bike, following which he lost control and fell. He sustained serious head injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared brought dead. "The biker was not wearing a helmet but had kept it on the fuel tank. The car driver works as a pilot with a private airline and was heading home after duty. Action has been initiated against him," the Devanahalli traffic police added. ENS

State's largest morgue needs improvement

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

THE mortuary at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru, which has the highest capacity of 48 cadaver cabinets in Karnataka, needs infrastructural improvement.

Doctors at the Forensic Medicine Department said, the mortuary building is very old and requires revamping. The building often calls for leakage repairs and even prior to monsoon seasons to avoid any ceiling leakage during heavy rain. However, in the future, the building might have to be demolished to set up a new infrastructure.

The mortuary caches 1,000 unidentified bodies yearly, of which, 800 are natural deaths, and the remaining are accidental, with the railways contributing the most.

Dr S Venkata Raghava, professor and HOD of the Forensic Medicine Department said, "Most cases are seen in the limits of Bangalore City Railway Station, Upparpet police station, Kalasipalyam and KR Market bus stand. Suicide cases on railway tracks and accident cases where people fall on the track while boarding train or while crossing platforms are also seen regularly." In addition, road accident cases, with two-wheelers being the most affected, have risen in Bengaluru, he said.

He urged people to be more careful on the roads as car drivers tend to be safer than bike riders. 92 cases of road accident deaths were reported at the hospital since march.

The doctors also highlighted that often nobody comes to identify these people in the mortuary. On Sunday, of the 23 deaths at the hospital, 12 were unidentified. About 100 such cases are seen every month. Currently, there is not much lack of space in the morgue, considering the fact that identified bodies only stay overnight, and the unidentified bodies remain for around 20 days to a month.

Metro's airport line sees first set of girders

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IN a major breakthrough on the Bengaluru Metro's KR Puram-KIA Line, the first two sets of U-griders were launched near Chikkajala.

The milestone was achieved in package-3, which runs for 15.01km from IAF Yelahanka to KIA terminal.

Chief Engineer, BMRCL, DC Nataraj told TNIE that a total of 784 U-girders will be launched in package 3. "Each girder is 28m in length. Work on the first set was completed by 5am on April 14. The second set was completed 90mins earlier thanks to the experience from the first one. It was ready by 4am on April 16."

The girder, weighing 165 tonnes, is hoisted by cranes. Each girder is transported by a trailer from the yard at Doddajala where they are cast, said Nataraj, and said that the stretch was well on course to meet the deadline.

He said of the pile foundation work for 2,172 piles, 1,619 have been completed.

"The pile cap has been done for 244 of 489 piles, 195 of 489 piers are ready while 87 of 308 pier caps are ready," he said. The Centre's deadline for the entire airport line is June 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

Notice is hereby given that my client **SRI PILLAMUNISHAMAPPA** son of Muniyappa is the owner of the property bearing Sy No 12/1 (New Sy No 12/5) measuring 0 Acre 10 Guntas situated at Panditapura, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli and he has acquired the aforesaid property by way of registered sale deed registered on 17.05.2001 in Book No 1 Document No 362/01-02 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli from its erstwhile owner Sri Munipillappa son of Munishamappa. My client further brings to the notice that the sale deed i.e registered sale deed registered on 17.05.2001 in Book No 1 Document No 362/01-02 in respect of the Sy No 12/1 (12/5) has been misplaced and lost during office renovation and request that any person/ persons who has in the possession of the registered sale deed registered to intimate to the undersigned and handover the document.

AMBRISH B N, Advocate
4708,7th floor, High Point IV, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 01 **Mob: 9845594939**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Certificate(s) for the undermentioned Equity Shares of the Company have been lost/misplaced and the holder(s) Purchaser(s) of the said Equity shares have applied to the Company to issue duplicate Share Certificate(s)
Any person who has a claim in respect of the said Shares should lodge the same with the Company at its Registered Office within 21 days from this date else Company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s) to the aforesaid applicants without any further intimation.

Company Name	Folio Number	Share Cert. Number	Distinctive Numbers		No.of.Share
			From	To	
Tata Elxsi Ltd.	EXM0007780	146211	20094331	20094430	100

Sd/-
Mr. GUTTIKONDA MURALI MOHAN
(New Name of Share Holder)
Date:17-04-2023

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
HEAD OFFICE : 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI - 600010
Ph. No. (044) 26426773 Email id : tncsc.tn@nic.in CIN : U15137TN1972SGC006157

No : BS6/014540/2023 **SHORT E - TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 13.04.2023

Short E - Tender No : BS3/014540/2023-TNCSC/23-24

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for the **"Purchase of 20,000 Metric Tonnes of "Tur dal (Split-Husked & Fatka) (Indigenous) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split - Husked & Laired No.2) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Whole - Husked & Laired No.2) as per Agmark specification"**

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date and Time for Online Submission: **Upto 5.00 P.M. on 02.05.2023**

DIPR/ 2150 /TENDER/2023 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the **Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.)** has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within **60 days** from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Naushad Ahmed, Acute Solutions, Mrs. Reshma Alauddin, (Prospect No. 870584 & 948626)	12-Apr-2023 Rs.35,30,644/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Forty Four Only) For 870584 & Rs.6,20,771/- (Rupees Six Lakh Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One Only) For 948626	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Property Bearing Old No 3, New No 85, Land Area Ad Measuring 460 Sq.Ft., Carpet Area Ad Measuring 657 Sq.Ft., and Built Up Area Ad Measuring 805 Sq.Ft., Situated at Kenchappa Lane, now known as Appanna Block, 1st Main, Cholanayakanahalli, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032, Karnataka, India. **Bounded By: North:** Site No.4, **South:** Site No.2, **East:** Private Property, **West:** Road.
Mr. Jagadish M, Mr. Dhakshina Murthy M, Mrs. Vanajakshi, (Prospect No. 927889)	12-Apr-2023 Rs.16,17,513.00/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Site No.44, Land Area 2400 sq.ft., Carpet Area 2400 sq.ft., Built-Up Area 1680 sq.ft., E-Swathu No.150200301900403628, VP Property No.3157/1349/44, Old Rama-Sandra Grama Khatha No.100/3, Situated At Ramasandra Village, Sulikere Grama Panchayath, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka, India-560060. **Bounded by: East:** Property No.35, **West:** Road, **North:** Property No.43, **South:** Property No.45.
Mrs. K. Renuka, Mr. Loganathan S, (Prospect No. 966134)	12-Apr-2023 Rs.10,76,203/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Three Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: House No 996, With Land Area Ad Measuring 378 Sq.ft. and Built Up Area Ad Measuring 380 Sq.ft., Khatha Municipal No. 1000, Khatha Sl No 473, Situated at 6th Cross, Maruthi nagar, Maruthi Sevanagar, Munekolala Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore-560033, Karnataka, India. **Bounded By: North:** Road, **South:** Mrs. Chowdamma, **East:** Mrs. Rajamma, **West:** Mr. Anwar Basha.

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office : "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, RichmondRoad, Bengaluru-560025. or Corporate Office: IIFL Tower,** Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore, Date: 17-04-2023 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that our Client intends to purchase the immovable properties being the lands described in the **Schedule** below ("**Schedule Properties**") which are owned by the persons specified in the Schedule ("**Owners**"). The Owners have represented that they are the absolute owners of their respective portions of the lands in the Schedule Properties having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Trishul Buildtech & Infrastructures Private Limited, a Company having its registered office at No. 2/55/1 Outer Ring Road, Opposite to Lumbini Garden, Veeranna Palya, Nagavara, Bengaluru- 560045 has entered into an Agreement to Sell dated 9.1.2023 in respect of the Schedule Properties with the Owners. Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, benefit, demand, claim or interest in relation to the Schedule Properties, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, let, lease, license, assignment, mortgage or in any other manner, is hereby called upon to lodge their objections and/or claims in writing along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, except the Owners and Trishul Buildtech & Infrastructures Private Limited, has any right over the Schedule Properties and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

Schedule

All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties totally measuring 2 Acres 7 Guntas situated at Thirupalya Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District described below:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries				Owners
		Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South	
1	30/25A1	0	8	Land bearing Survey No. 30/24C belonging to Trishul Buildtech & Infrastructures Private Limited	Land bearing Survey No. 30/25A2	Land bearing Survey Nos. 30/20, 30/21 and Road	Yarandahalli Village Boundary and Road	Mr. Narayana Reddy
2	30/25B	1	0					Mr. Narayana Reddy
3	30/25B	0	39					Mrs. Gangamma

Signed/-
R Vasudev / B. S. Raghavi
Magnah Law Partners
No. 1/24, Hanumanthappa Layout, Ulsoor Road
Bengaluru - 560 042, Phone No. 080-46462424
Email id: raghavi.bs@magnahlaw.com
Date: April 17, 2023

QuoteExpress
DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING
SAM LEVENSON

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, DIESEL LOCO SHED, ERODE - 638002

E –TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES 08/DSD/ ED/PURCHASE/ADVT./01

The Following e–tender has been published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in**----Login----E Tender-----Goods & Services (New) and quote against the tender. Manual quotations will not be entertained. Closing Time: **14:30 hours.** Tender No: **58235140;** Description: Supply, erection and commissioning of Micro processor based control and fault diagnostic system with remote monitoring and analysis (MPCS) for 25 KV AC Electric locomotives as per RDSO specification No. ELRS/SPEC/ MPC-FDS/0001 Rev-3, April 2013 with latest amendment with all accessories including central and backup data logging & processing system. Note: 1) To be procured from CLW approved sources only.; **Due date: 11-MAY-23 14:30.**

AMM/DSD/ED

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client is intending to purchase the immovable property, morefully described in the schedule here below, from Smt. Raksha A Hanumantgad. Any person/s having any claim, right, title or interest of whatsoever manner with regard to the Schedule Property or anybody opposing the sale transaction may lodge such claim or objection in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this Notice, failing which my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction presuming that there are no valid claims or objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.4, 5, 6 & 7, Khatha No. 336/345/4, 5, 6 & 7 carved out of converted land in Sy. No. 12/1 and 12/2, duly converted for nonagricultural purpose, situated at Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North (Additional) Taluk, measuring 42611 Square Feet and bounded on the;
East By : 30 Feet Road, Site No3. & 8, West by : Private Property, North by : Private Property, South by : Private Property

Sd/- **(N.D. SATISHCANDRA), Advocate,**
No.4227/A, 3rd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Stage, A Block, Subramanyanagar, Srirampuram Post, Bengaluru - 560021.
Mob: 9448576441
Bangalore Date: 17-04-2023

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING
WINSTON CHURCHILL

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED
Repco Home Finance
CORPORATE OFFICE: Alexander Square, 3rd Floor, No.2 (Old No. 34 & 35), Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032. Phone No.044-42106650; Fax: 044-42106651

DEMAND NOTICE

Sl.No.1:- (Basaveshwaranagar Branch) - Borrower: Mr. Suresh Babu K K, S/o.Mr. Kandaswamy, No.4, 2nd Floor, GKW Layout Shambavi Nagar, RG Nagar, Peenya, Bengaluru-560058. **Also at:** Sri Balaji Traders, No.96, GKW Layout Main Road, Ramajah Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560058. **Co-Borrower : Mrs. Prema K,** W/o.Mr. Suresh Babu, No.4, 2nd Floor, GKW Layout Shambavi Nagar, RG Nagar, Peenya, Bengalure-560058. **Guarantor: Mr. Sadashiv P,** S/o. Mr. Puttachannappa, No.27, 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross Street, Sri Abhaya Srirama Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560058. **Also at: CKM Enterprises,** No.27, 2nd Cross, Andrahalli Main Road, Peenya 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560058

Demand Notice Dated: 18-02-2023, Loan A/C No.1861860001922, Sanction Date: 07-03-2019, Type of Loan: Construction of House/ Flat Sanction Amount: Rs. 43,30,373/- (out of which total disbursed Rs.37,30,373/-), NPA Dated: 01-05-2022 Loan Outstanding Amount of Rs. 56,52,146/- with further interest from **17-02-2023** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.29, Khatha No. 120/1,2,3 and formed in Property Assessment No.120/1,2 and 3 situated at Laggere Village, Yeswanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru, North Taluk, Presently property comes under the limit of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is situated within the following **Boundaries:** North: Site No.28, South:Site No.36, East : Site No.30, West: Road, **Measuring:** East West on the North:50 feet, East West on the South:50 feet, North South on the West :30 feet, North South on the East:30 feet.

Sl.No.2:- (Hoodi Branch) - Borrower: Mrs.Revathi R, W/o Mr Ramalingam S, No. 1247, Ground Floor, 6h Main, Prakash Nagar, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore – 560021. **Also at : M/s.AMD Technology,** No.113, 13th Cross, Lakshminarayanpuram, Rajaji Nagar Bangalore -560021. **Co-Borrower : Mr Ramalingam S,** S/o Mr Subramaniyan R, No. 1247, Ground Floor, 6th Main, Prakash Nagar, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore – 560021. **Also at : M/s. Lakshiminarayana Electrical Work,** No.1247, 6th Main, 10th Cross, Prakash Nagar, Banglore – 560021. **Guarantor : Mr. Vijaya Kumar V,** S/o Mr. Ram Reddy, No. 90, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Near Govt School, Prakash Nagar, Bangalore 560021. **Also at: M/s.AMD, Technology,** No.113, 13th Cross, Lakshminarayanpuram, Rajaji Nagar Bangalore -560021.

Demand Notice Dated: 17-02-2023, Loan A/C No.2351816000222, Sanction Date: 11-02-2019, Type of Loans: Commercial Real Estate (Housing), Sanction Amount:Rs.35,16,107/- NPA Dated: 29-07-2022, Loan Outstanding Amount of Rs.43,40,903/- with further interest from **16-02-2023** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Eastern Portion of the Site No. 154, formed in assessment No. 55 and 56, Old Khatha No. 55 and 56, Situated at Karivobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now Property comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) having BBMP Khatha No. 3975/154/Eastern Portion in Ward No. 40 East to West : 15 Feet, North to South :40 Feet.Totally measuring : 600 Square Feet. and **Bounded On:** East by : Site No. 155, West by : Remaining Western Portion of the Site No.154, North by : Site No. 160,South by : Road.

As a security for the repayment of the said loan to **Repco Home Finance Limited,** you have executed a Loan Agreement and also created, an equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the property detailed herein above: Since you have defaulted in repayment of the loan, you are liable to pay the additional interest also. **The Company issued notice under the Act on above mentioned dates calling upon the above Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors to repay the above outstanding amount** with further interest and costs thereon. **The Notice sent to all of you by Regd. Post. with Ack. Due.** We hereby call upon you, to pay the aforesaid amount due within **60 (Sixty) Days from the date of this notice,** falling which the Company shall take over the possession of secured assets mortgaged to us under the power conferred to us under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, wherein the **Repco Home Finance Limited,** is empowered to take possession of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment of sale, take over the management of the secured assets, appoint any person to manage the secured assets from you and adjust the above sale proceeds towards the debt due from you. We draw your attentions to Sec. 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured asset.

Date: 18-07-2023, 17-02-2023
Authorised Officer
Repco Home Finance Ltd.,

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Shashi Kumar M, 2) Mrs. Munirathnamma M (Mother of Mr. Shashikumar M)	Loan Account No. 31889630000264 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	Details of Secured Assets - Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of property bearing portion of House List No.188/144 and 144/1, Situated at Babusapalya Gramathana Chelikere Dakhale, K.R.Puram, Bangalore Taluk, Now comes under BBMP limits and **Bounded by the: East by:** Venkateshappa's House, **West by:** Sri K.Raju's Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** K. Krishnappa's House. Measuring East to West: 20 Feet and North to South: 15 Feet, Total measuring 300 Sq.feet.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2023 Demand Notice Date: 13.04.2023	**Rs.4,33,549.78** (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine and Paisa Seventy Eight Only) **dues as on 11-04-2023**
2	1) Ms. Shruthi M, 2) Ms. Gowri R, 3) Mr. Mahesh M	Loan Account No. 33639420001873 Loan Amount: Rs.30,00,661/-	Details of Secured Assets - Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the site No.15, Katha No.137, BBMP Katha SL.No.166, situated at Ullalu Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore and Bounded on measuring East to West: 40 Feet, and North to South: 30 Feet, In all Measuring 1200 Sq.ft. and **Bounded on: East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.16, **South by:** Site No.14.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2023 Demand Notice Date: 13.04.2023	**Rs.30,88,035.00** (Rupees Thirty Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Thirty Five Only) **dues as on 11-04-2023**
3	1) M/s. Sri Chandus Non Veg/ M/s. Sri Chandus Non Veg Hotel, 2) Mr. Santhosh Kumar B K Proprietor of M/s. Sri Chandus Non Veg/ M/s. Sri Chandus Non Veg Hotel, 3) Mrs. Roopa B N	Loan Account No. 45348640000370 45349660001685 Loan Amount: Rs.50,00,000/- Rs.12,50,000/-	Details of Secured Assets - Mortgaged Immovable Property: Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Vacant Site No.57, Katha No.541, Sy.No.44/4 Situated at Bettahally Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and **Bounded on: East by:** 30 Feet Road, **West by:** Site Nos.73 and 74, **North by:** Site No.56, **South by:** Site No.58. Measuring East to West 80 Ft. and North to South 50 Ft. Totally Measuring 4000 Sq.ft. Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Vacant Site No.58, Katha No.540, Sy.No.44/4 situated at Bettahally Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.73 and 72, **North by:** Site No.57, **South by:** Site No.59. Measuring East to West 80 Ft. and North to South 50 Ft. Totally Measuring 4000 Sq.ft.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2023 Demand Notice Date: 13.04.2023	**Rs.46,65,264.78** (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Four and Paisa Seventy Eight Only) in the **Loan Account No. 45348640000370 & Rs.10,43,856.00** (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six Only) in the **Loan Account No. 45349660001685**, in total for both the **Loan Account is Rs. 57,09,120.78** (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakh Nine Thousand One Hundred Twenty and Paisa Seventy Eight Only) **as on 10-04-2023**
4	1) Mrs. Shilpa S, 2) Mr. Govindaraja M	Loan Account No. 47519630000065 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Flat No. FF-105, measuring 310 Sq.ft., of Super built up area in the First Floor, constructed in House No.18/27, Old No.18/27, PID No.65-374-13/1/2/3, New Municipal No.13/7, New PID No.65-374-13/7, situated at Present Ward No.176, Old Ward No.65, of Nayanappa Shetty Palya (N S Palya), Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, under the jurisdiction of BBMP and the entire building thereon is **Bounded by the: On the East:** 5 Feet passage and thereafter Sanjeevappa Property, **On the West:** Adugodi Papanna Property, **On the North:** Earlier Motappa property, presently Vajrappa Property and thereafter, Government Road, **On the South:** Earlier Motappa Property, presently Kamala Ganesh Property.	Date of NPA: 29-11-2022 Demand Notice Date: 13.04.2023	**Rs.4,17,508.70** (Rupees Four Lakh Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Eight and Seventy Paisa Only) **due as on 11-04-2023**
5	1) Mr. Kumara Naik, Also at: M/s. Jai Bhajarangi Condimets Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Kumara Naik, 2) Mrs. Lakshami Bai	Loan Account No. 46989440000112 Loan Amount: Rs.4,94,757/-	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 24, Khatha No.454/3298/5584/24/322, Khatha SL.No.454, Old Khatha No. 3298/5584/24/322, situated at Rojipura Village, 4th Stage Doddaballapura Town, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded by the: On the East:** Site No.23, **On the West:** Nagarasabha's Property, **On the North:** Site No.17, **On the South:** Road. Measuring East to West: 25 feet and North to South: 30 feet.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2023 Demand Notice Date: 13.04.2023	**Rs.4,29,985.30** (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five and Thirty Paisa Only) **due as on 11-04-2023**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 17.04.2023, Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JDS leader Anand Asnotikar has said he will not contest the Assembly polls. He told *TNIE*, "I was told by Delhi-based leaders to prepare for the elections. I conducted a survey and decided to contest either from a national party or as an independent. But since my mother's health is deteriorating constantly, I am unable to contest the polls."

PEOPLE WON'T FORGIVE SHETTAR, SAVADI: BSY

Invites rebels back into party in 4-5 days, says all will be forgotten

BJP leaders BS Yediyurappa, Dharmendra Pradhan and Nalin Kumar Kateel address the media in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

SLAMMING former chief minister Jagadish Shettar for resigning from the party membership as well as MLA's post, senior leader and former CM BS Yediyurappa said people will not forgive Shettar for this. "Whatever he has done, it is an unforgivable crime," Yediyurappa said.

He also slammed Laxman Savadi for quitting the party and fighting elections as a Congress candidate from Athani. However, he said that if both leaders are willing to return in the next four or five days, the party will forgive them and take them back. Shettar, one of the senior-most BJP leaders, tendered his resignation as MLA on Sunday, after he was denied a party ticket to contest polls.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Yediyurappa said Shettar has betrayed the party, and that people will neither forget not forgive him. "Shettar has been associated with the party since it was the Jan Sangh. The party made him MLA, minister, BJP state president, opposition leader, and even chief minister. In spite of opposition from BB Shivappa, he was made leader of the opposition. It was me and late Ananthkumar who stood by him and made him chief minister," he said

Yediyurappa said the nation is developing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and it is "our duty and responsibility to support him". "Modi has made India shine and get a better name in the world. We should support him. But Shettar has taken a decision which is against his own thinking. He should have worked for the party and country, in spite of not getting a post or position. It is the party that recognised him and made him what he is. He cannot achieve anything without the party's support.

> **Modi has made India shine and get a better name in the world. We should support him. But Shettar has taken a decision which is against his own thinking. He should have worked for the party and country ...**
>
> BS Yediyurappa, senior BJP leader

Party leaders, including Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pralhad Joshi visited Shettar's house to convince him. They told him he would be made Union minister, but Shettar is joining the Congress, which is unforgivable, Yediyurappa said.

Declaring that he had voluntarily stepped out of electoral politics, Yediyurappa appreciated the stand taken by former ministers KS Eshwarappa, S Angara and Raghupathi Bhat.

Yediyurappa also slammed Laxman Savadi for quitting the party and joining Congress. Savadi was MLA, minister and the party made him MLC, and also deputy CM. "If he had continued in the BJP, he would be given a ministry again. BJP has not done injustice to him, but recognised him. "Savadi joining Congress is unforgivable. He has broken the trust of the people and party," he said. Party workers should not get distracted about these developments, but should work for the party, he added.

Why did you sever ties with BJP in 2012, Shettar asks BSY

ENS @ Hubballi

HITTING back at former CM BS Yediyurappa, senior BJP leader Jagadish Shettar questioned why he quit the saffron party in 2012 despite enjoying all positions and power.

Yediyurappa lashed out at Shettar calling his resignation an "unforgivable crime". "I don't want to get into the details as to under what circumstances the party gave him power and position and how much he enjoyed it," Shettar said. Shettar reminded Yediyurappa of his own actions after quitting the BJP and forming KJP in 2012.

Shettar dismissed rumours of Congress sending him a chopper to fly to Bengaluru. He said the chopper belonged to his relative Ganesh Shamanur, son of veteran Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa.

On Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's warningto those HDMC members opposing the denial of ticket to Shettar, he said, "Physically these leaders might be with the party, but mentally they are supporting me."

'Suppressing Lingayat Leaders'

Earlier in the day, before leaving for Sirsi to tender his resignation as MLA, Shettar though not directly said that there was a systematic attempt to suppress Lingayat leaders in the BJP. He further said, it seems state election in-charge and a few local leaders have decided not to bring the BJP back to power. Not giving respect to those who built the party in the state and humiliating them would certainly cost the party dear, he added. When asked whether he fears raids by ED or CBI after he quits the BJP, Shettar said he has not done anything illegal.

(Left) CM Basavaraj Bommai arrives to take part in a felicitation programme by SC/ST Samrakshana Samiti in Raichur on Sunday; Jagadish Shettar submits his resignation to the Speaker

Pained by Shettar's resignation: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hubballi

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that former chief minister Jagadish Shettar's decision to resign as MLA has caused him pain.

Speaking to reporters here, Bommai said that the BJP had different plans for Shettar and his family, but the senior leader refused to accept it and decided to resign. Shettar's resignation has pained and disturbed him, the CM said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been making efforts to depart from the established political practices of the party and several decisions have been taken time and again. Veteran leaders BS Yediyurappa and KS Eshwrappa retiring from active politics were also part of such an initiative," the CM said.

The intention behind these decisions is to build the next line of leaders as already the party has second-rung leaders such as CC Patil, Murugesh Nirani, V Somanna, Basavaraj Patil Yatnal, Shashikala Jolle and others, and they have held important positions.

Shettar is a senior and an important leader of Kittur Karnataka and the party wanted to give him a coveted position at the Central level and assured him of giving ticket to the candidate of his choice for the Hubballi-Dharwad Central segment, he said.

BJP national president JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also assured Shettar of using his service and giving a respectable position, he added.

"Despite these assurances, Shettar, who used to guide us on the party's ideals and principles, Shettar resigned," he said, adding that PM Modi's thinking and Yediyurappa's conduct are ideals for the party and the government in the State was going ahead taking all castes and communities together by forming a balanced social equation. The CM said though he does not rule out Shettar's influence in the region, the party will take damage control measures.

Shettar may join Congress in Rahul's presence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SHETTAR, on CM Bommai's statement that he was offered a bigger role in the party, said, "I do not want a big post. I want to be a member so that I can serve the people. I told Bommai two years ago that I don't want to be a minister as I want to serve the people. I asked the party leaders to point out my mistakes, but they could not. I have not indulged in any illegal activity and I am not a rowdy-sheeter. But I am targeted by some people with vested interests. They have conspired and forced me to move out of my home, BJP. I am pained at heart," he said. Asked who it is, he refused to name anyone.

Congress sources said Shettar has been offered the ticket from the Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency, his pocketborough. The party has also made him in charge for North Karnataka. "If all goes well, he is likely to join congress on Monday morning in the presence of Rahul Gandhi (Congress leader)," they added.

Senior BJP leaders, including Bommai, BL Santhosh and Nalinkumar Kateel are meeting late night on Sunday at the party head office to discuss final list of BJP. They are also trying one more attempt to get Shettar back into the party.

EXODUS OF LINGAYAT LEADERS MAY HIT BJP'S PROSPECTS IN KITTUR KARNATAKA

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

WITH several top Lingayat BJP leaders deciding not to contest the May 10 Assembly elections or quitting the party for not getting a ticket, the saffron party's prospects in Kittur Karnataka is likely to take a beating in the polls.

It all started with former CM BS Yediyurappa, a Lingayat strongman, deciding to quit electoral politics. This was followed by MLC Laxman Savadi, who quit the BJP after he was denied ticket from Athani. The list also includes Ramdurg MLA Mahadevappa Yadwad, noted leaders from Badami constituency M K Pattanshetty and Mahantesh Mamadapur and former minister Appu Pattanshetty. The latest to quit the BJP include former CM Jagadish Shettar and Koppal MP Sanganna Karadi.

Most of these Lingayat leaders are not merely capable of winning the polls, but also have the ability to handle top positions in the party and government.

Citing age as a factor, Yediyurappa was made to quit as CM. When Savadi was appointed as DyCM in Yediyurappa Cabinet despite losing from Athani, the decision of the BJP high command stunned many insiders and envied senior party legislators. At a time when the party decided to replace Yediyurappa as CM, Savadi had emerged as a potential leader for the top post.

However, the party's decision to dump Savadi by allotting a party ticket to his political rival Mahesh Kumathalli from Athani came as a shock to him forcing him to end his relationship with the BJP overnight.

Undeterred by the snub, Savadi is looking forward to stretching his political career longer by joining the Congress. According to political experts, the impact of his shift to Congress from BJP will be felt in several constituencies, particularly in Athani, Kagwad, Sindagi, Basavan Bagewadi and many other Lingayat majority seats.

Shettar would have registered a cakewalk victory from Hubballi Central constituency. His exit from the BJP will have ramifications that could have an impact on the party's prospects in some Lingayat-dominated segments in Dharwad district. In the current group of Lingayat BJP leaders, Shettar is one of the fit candidates for CM's post other than Savadi in the event of BJP coming to power, feel Shettar's supporters.

Former minister Appu Pattanshetty from Vijayapura and three-time former MLA MK Pattanshetty from Badami should have been allotted tickets given their ability to win the seats based on their popularity in the Lingayat community. Yadwad would also have won the seat easily in Ramdurg but the party replaced him with Chikka Revanna.

One will have to wait and watch as to how the BJP will be able to consolidate Lingayat votes in the upcoming polls after this exodus of Lingayat leaders.

SAVADI: POLITICAL POLARISATION HAS STARTED'

BELAGAVI: Political polarisation has started in the state as BJP has started losing its sincere and honest party workers, former deputy CM and Athani Congress candidate Laxman Savadi has said. Speaking to media persons at Chikkodi, Savadi said, "Many have spoken about me lightly. But, I will not react to them. I am a bit scared thinking how Congress workers will react as I had opposed the Congress for the last five years. It will take some time to delete the BJP word from my mouth. I apologise to Congress workers as I could not meet them and take their opinion before joining the party. There was very little time. Party workers need not worry as I will take everyone into confidence," he said. **ENS**

SHETTAR TOO BIG FOR JDS, SAYS KUMARASWAMY

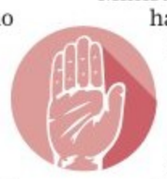
MANGALURU: Former CM HD Kumaraswamy said he stood vindicated about what he had earlier said about the BJP 'DNA' which forces senior leaders to move out of the party. He was reacting to former CM Jagadish Shettar's resignation from BJP, in Dharmasthala. Asked if Shettar has approached JDS, he said that Shettar has not contacted him. "JDS is a small party and we do not need such big leaders. I do not know whether Shettar will join the Congress," he said. Kumaraswamy said that recent developments of senior leaders quitting BJP shows that the "DNA in the BJP" is a problem. Kumaraswamy visited Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala and sought the blessings of Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Dr D Veerendra Heggade. **ENS**

Disciplined party crumbling now: Cong leaders mock at BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONGRESS leaders, including Council Opposition leader BK Hariprasad, on Sunday criticised Bharatiya Janata Party, saying the ruling party's claim to be a disciplined party has all but crumbled.

They said that those who work loyally in BJP have no value. Yediyurappa has been sent to Margadarshak Mandal. Slowly, they will push him to retirement, they added.



Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "BJP leaders are rebelling and quitting. When our opponents, which is BJP, are in disarray, it is an advantage for us."

Hariprasad, speaking about former chief minister Jagadish Shettar's exit from the saffron party, said this is the state of a disciplined party. "In BJP, there are only blind bhakts and fake leaders," he criticised.

Referring to the 17 turncoats who defected from Congress and JDS to help BJP form the government in 2019, he said, "Those who have been purchased through horse-trading are doing well. If Shettar comes to Congress, he is welcome. He is a soft-spoken and amiable leader."

Congress leaders said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has no control over his party and only says that the party top brass are in talks with disgruntled leaders.

KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed said, "BJP is putting its senior leaders, like LK Advani and others, virtually into dustbins. That is why Shettar kept away. They have a use and throw policy."

On Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's statement that though leaders are quitting, workers are committed, Hariprasad said it rings hollow. "Leaders and workers are quitting the saffron part to avoid misrule and corruption of this government," he added.

POLITICAL THEATRE

Anti-BJP slogans welcome Vijayendra at tanda

SHIVAMOGGA: Shikaripura BJP candidate and former CM BS Yediyurappa's son BY Vijayendra faced backlash from people of the Banjara community at a tanda in Taralaghatta village, when he went there to seek votes on Sunday. The villagers shouted slogans against the BJP government for implementing internal reservation for SCs. Sources said that Vijayendra, who was on a visit to meet party workers, entered the village to hold a booth-level meeting. A few villagers shouted slogans against the State Government for implementing internal reservation for SCs as per the recommendations of the Justice Sadashiva Commission. They also raised 'BJP Hatao, Tanda Bachao' slogans. They continued the sloganeering until Vijayendra got into his car and moved away from the spot. Sources said that Vijayendra held a meeting with booth-level workers at the tanda for over 20 minutes.Stones were recently thrown at Yediyurappa's Shikaripura residence over the same issue.

Chinchansoor in hospital, wife to file papers

KALABURAGI: Elections to Gurmitkal constituency in Yadgir district will see a departure from the usual practise in filing nomination papers. Congress candidate from the constituency, Babu Rao Chinchansoor will sign his papers from the hospital, where he is undergoing treatment after he met with an accident. The papers will be filed by his wife Amareshwari on his behalf before the returning officer, said Yadgir district unit Congress chief. Yadgir DC Snehal R told TNIE that if a candidate is indisposed due to health reasons and is unable to file the nomination papers personally, the candidate can sign the papers and the nominee can file them before the returning officer. The oath, usually taken before the returning officer, will be administered before the doctors, and that should be attached with other papers, she said. BJP candidate Lalitha Anapur and JDS candidate Sharanagowda Kandakur visited United Hospital on Saturday evening and spoke to Amareshwari as Chinchansoor was being operated on. Karntaka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) head of communications and social media wing Priyank Kharge also visited the hospital and enquired about Chinchansoor's health from his wife on Sunday.

POLITICAL CHEMISTRY

Party that quells dissent has better chance at victory

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

THOUGH rebellion in the Congress and BJP, post distribution of tickets, gives an impression that the assembly elections will throw up a fractured verdict in Karnataka, experts feel it will depend on how well both parties quell the dissent. Some surveys predict that the national parties are gripped by the 'Nervous 90' syndrome, as they slug it out to cross the halfway mark of 113 seats.

According to political analyst Prof Sandeep Shastri, there have been instances where election mandates were fractured due to divided voting preferences, but he doesn't believe that is the case this time. "It's a straightforward choice between the Congress and BJP, with the JDS a distant third, but there is a 3-5% margin of error in election surveys. The situation could change before poll day, depending on developments in the next 20 days," he said.

"Fractured mandates result due to peculiar circumstances. I don't think there is a peculiar situation this time, it looks to be a clear mandate either for the Congress or BJP. Ideally, the party that controls rebellion well will have a better chance to win," he remarked.

Opposition leader in the Council BK Hariprasad claimed that rebellion in the Congress is negligible. "It will not be a fractured mandate this time," he said.

BJP leader CN Ashwath Narayan said rebellion in the BJP will get streamlined once electioneering picks up. "There is no leader who will contest as an independent against the party candidate, as people will defeat such leaders," he said. But rebellion is likely to affect the parties with some formidable leaders daring to contest too.

The Congress saw leaders like former MLC Raghu Achar in Chitradurga, YSV Datta in Kadur and Nagaraj Chebbi in Kalaghatgi quitting the party. The BJP is facing the wrath of a posse of leaders, including former DyCM Laxman Savadi, MLAs Nehru Olekar and MP Kumaraswamy, MLC R Shankar, former minister Sogadu Shivanna and others who have declared they will quit the party and fight as independents or join other parties.

JDS, which is eyeing the rebels, including Sogadu and Olekar, is likely to benefit and improve its chance to be kingmaker. "Wait and watch, we have a list of leaders who will join the JDS in the coming days," a party leader said.

'BJP could still convince Sanganna'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KOPPAL MP **Karadi Sanganna** will file his nomination papers on Wednesday, they added. When the party indicated that Sanganna would not get the ticket, Gavisiddappa was getting ready to contest the election, but he too was denied the chance.

A senior BJP leader from Koppal said, "It is the high command that decides Assembly tickets. We will work for any party member who is chosen to contest. We agree that losing some top leaders will disturb our equations, but for BJP workers, it it always the party, and not a person, that is important. There is still time, and party senior leaders could convince Sanganna to stay back, telling him that it is difficult for people to accept him as a candidate from any other party. We are watching his next move and we will be happy if he comes back."

Shivanand Melamath, a resident of Koppal, said, "Karadi Sanganna has implemented some good development projects in Koppal. We don't know why he is changing parties, but he is the leader here, whether he belongs to BJP or JDS. People love him here, and vote for him irrespective of the party he belongs to."

In a major breakthrough in the Kerala state government's efforts to set up an airport for Sabarimala pilgrims, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has given approval for the proposed Sabarimala International Greenfield airport in Erumeli

Vehicles stopped, checked for cash, liquor, valuables. Public, tourists complain of delay, traffic jams

BORDER CHECKS

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR

FLYING squads, police teams, Central Reserve Paramilitary Force, static surveillance teams and a host of other teams from different departments and agencies are working round-the-clock, manning hundreds of inter-state and inter-district checkposts set up across Karnataka to prevent the illegal flow of cash and valuables, ahead of the May 10 assembly election.

In spite of the strict vigil, several instances of VIPs passing through the checkposts without being frisked, are reported. However, teams at the checkposts are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that every vehicle and passenger is checked before crossing over, especially at the state's borders with Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

After the imposition of model code of conduct, the highest seizure of cash, valuables and other materials has been reported in Belagavi district. Belagavi Deputy Commissioner Nitesh Patil told TNIE, "Including two big hauls -- Rs 2 crore cash at Hirebagewadi toll plaza and Rs 1.5 crore cash near Hitni Cross – Belagavi district has recorded the highest seizure of cash and valuables so far in the state, after imposition of the code of conduct. We have 24 inter-state checkposts on the Maharashtra and Goa borders, and 38 inter-district checkposts in Belagavi district. The SST teams and flying squads are working round-the-clock in three shifts to ensure that all the vehicles and people are checked properly."

Patil said Central Para Military Force teams will reach the checkposts in the next two days to hasten the frisking process. All checkposts have been provided with CCTVs, fans and water, besides other basic amenities to ensure the teams perform their duties effectively, he added.

At several checkposts on the Kerala and Tamil Nadu borders, a large number of people and tourists are facing severe inconvenience due to the tedious checking process. Several instances of traffic jams due to the slow process of checking baggage at Kodagu have been reported, but officials gave an assurance that the process would be expedited to avoid any problems at the borders.

The SST teams and flying squads are facing a challenging task at several checkposts on the Maharashtra and Goa borders in Belagavi district, where vehicular movement is heavy. Although the government has formed bigger teams to ensure that all passengers and commuters are frisked strictly, it is a tough job to check all vehicles at the checkposts at Kugnoli on the Maharashtra border, and Nipani and Kagwad checkposts bordering Miraj, Maharashtra.

A large number of vehicles from several districts of Maharashtra and Goa pass via the Belagavi checkpost. "Many workers travel from Maharashtra to Belagavi on a regular basis via the interstate checkpost at Kugnoli. The tedious process of checking vehicles and passengers becomes a nuisance for us every day. Officials should find alternatives so that travellers who use the same route can avoid this difficulty," says Manoj Chavan, who travels from Shinoli town in Maharashtra to Belagavi.

BIG PICTURE

Several businessmen who regularly travel via checkposts on the Goa and Maharashtra borders also face inconvenience. "Business activities get affected due to the undue delay caused by checks on the border," says Mangesh Patil, a local businessman. However, officials said they were trying to avoid inconvenience to the people.

CASH, GOLD, LIQUOR MOST POPULAR

Officials seized Rs 20 lakh in cash, 220gm of gold and 131 litres of liquor being transported illegally from various checkposts in Ballari district, bordering Andhra Pradesh. As many as 11 checkposts have been set up along the border, and all are equipped with CCTV cameras, with police personnel deployed for security 24/7. FST officials and police are checking almost all vehicles passing through the checkposts.

In Chitradurga, cases related to violation of the model code of conduct have been on the rise. Vehicles passing through checkposts in Chitradurga on the Andhra Pradesh border are being scanned. Chitradurga Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu GRJ, who is monitoring the checkposts, has spoken with her Ananthpur counterpart Nagalakshmi, and requested her to set up similar checkposts on their side, and prevent flow of illegal liquor, money and gifts towards Karnataka.

The at least 150-km border with Andhra Pradesh is shared by Molakalmuru, Challakere and Hiriyur. There are incidents of goonda elements entering Chitradurga from Andhra Pradesh and influencing voters, hence there is a need for cooperation from neighbouring districts in preventing malpractices, she added.

Udevu, Mallasamudra, Yaddalubommanahatti, Pathappanagudi, Kanakuppe of Molakalmuru taluk, Nagappanahalli gate of Challakere taluk, Khandenahalli and PD Kote Cross of Hiriyur will be getting eight border outposts for close monitoring of the vehicles and people entering and exiting Karnataka, the DC said. SP K Parashuram, during his interaction with his counterpart Dr Fakeerappa Kaginalli, requested him to provide necessary information for the smooth conduct of polls and prevent illegal activities. Fakeerappa said all the demands of the Chitradurga administration will be addressed.

Permanent checkposts will also be set up for close monitoring of the activities. Parashuram told TNIE that except cash, liquor or unaccounted goods have not been seized on the Andhra Pradesh border. However, they have intensified monitoring along the border.

At some inter-state checkposts, vehicles are piled up as officials are checking each and every vehicle thoroughly, while at some checkposts, there are no vehicles at all.

COMMUTERS FACE INCONVENIENCE

With Mysuru having an interstate checkpost near Bavali, that connects Karnataka and Kerala, security and inspection has been bolstered. Deputy Commissioner Rajendra directed officials to frisk passengers and to ensure that seizures are photographed and videographed. Strict vigil is being kept to avoid illegal transport of bulk items, especially cookers, sarees, vessels and other utensils, which may be carried in vehicles via checkposts.

With halting of vehicles at border checkposts, tourists from neighbouring Kerala and Tamil Nadu are at the receiving end. "We planned a weekend trip to Mysuru and other tourist destinations around Mandya. While we spent nearly 45 minutes at the checkpost near Bavali, we were stopped again at the Mysuru-Bengaluru expressway, which not only caused inconvenience but also hindered vehicle movement, causing a jam at the bypass," said Sudesh, a resident of Kalpetta in Wayanad, who had come with his family to Mysuru.

Tourist vehicles coming into Kodagu are facing a similar issue. The district has three inter-state and 11 inter-district checkposts, where additional forces are deployed. SP K Ramarajan confirmed that all vehicles entering and leaving the district will be checked.

With a surge in tourists, following the long weekend, traffic jams have become a common sight, especially at the Kushalnagar checkpost. Nevertheless, sources confirmed that additional officials from the police department have been deployed at the checkposts to control movement of vehicles. Three teams on eight-hour shifts have been deployed at the checkposts across the district, and unaccounted cash is regularly seized at the Kushalnagar checkpost.

Recently, nearly Rs 5.5 lakh was seized in three different incidents. However, the cash was handed back to the owners after they submitted a suitable source. Sarees were seized recently at the inter-state checkpost near Thithimathi.

As many as 27 checkposts, including 10 inter-state ones, have been set up in Dakshina Kannada. Mangaluru City police are keeping an eye on movement of vehicles at the interstate Talapady checkpost at the Karnataka-Kerala border. A resident of Manjeshwar, working at a private firm in Mangaluru, told TNIE, "Long queues are seen at Talapady checkpost at peak hours, and there are limited police personnel. The authorities should make use of technology to speed up the process instead of manual checking, to save time."

Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Kuldeep Kumar R Jain said four personnel are deployed on a shift basis at each checkpost. Meanwhile, a commuter from Bantwal taluk said police are not checking all vehicles at a checkpost on the border with Kerala, near Salethur. Only selected vehicles were being checked and details were noted down, while other vehicles were allowed to go unhindered.

With inputs from K Karthik/Mysuru, Prajna GR/Kodagu, Divya Coutinho/Dakshina Kannada, G Subhash Chandra/Chitradurga, Amit Upadhye/Ballari

TOTAL SEIZURES

FROM MARCH 29 TO APRIL 16 (IN ₹)

CASH	71,27,04,117
FREEBIES	18,51,54,490
LIQUOR	37,59,86,691 (8,94,389 LITRES)
DRUGS/NARCOTICS	13,45,05,261 (654.22 KG)
GOLD	26,63,55,344 (62.26 KG)
SILVER	2,79,46,541 (401.97 KG)
TOTAL	170,26,52,444

FIRs ON THE GO

1. Flying squads, SSTs and police booked 1,410 FIRs with regard to seizures of cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals and other freebies
2. Excise dept booked 1,787 heinous cases, 1,337 cases of 'breach of licence conditions', 65 NDPS, and 8,124 cases under Section 15(a) of Karnataka Excise Act 1965
3. 1,202 different types of vehicles seized

CBI officials take YS Bhaskar Reddy (centre) to the Osmania General Hospital for medical tests in Hyderabad on Sunday

CBI arrests Andhra CM's uncle in Viveka murder case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

SLEUTHS of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday arrested YS Bhaskar Reddy, father of Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy and uncle of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, for allegedly hatching a plan to eliminate former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy and also playing an active role in destroying the crime scene along with the other accused.

Later in the day, the investigation agency issued a notice to YS Avinash Reddy and asked him appear before it at the CBI Office in Hyderabad at 3 pm on Monday.

The CBI said the conspiracy to eliminate Vivekananda was hatched at the behest of Bhaskar Reddy and others one month prior to the murder. Citing mobile signal location, the investigation agency said one of the key assailants was in Bhaskar Reddy's house hours before the murder.

Bhaskar was produced before a court in Hyderabad and remanded to 14 days in judicial remand. Later, he was shifted to Central Prison at Chanchalguda.

The development comes two days after the arrest of G Uday Kumar Reddy, another accused in the case.

A team of CBI officers visited Bhaskar Reddy's residence in Pulivendula and conducted searches early in the morning. Later, they handed over an arrest memo to his wife Lakshmi and shifted him to Hyderabad.

In the remand report, the CBI said Bhaskar Reddy and his family, including one of the accused D Siva Shankar Reddy, were unhappy with Viveka for 'various reasons.' "Due to their (Bhaskar Reddy and others) internal sabotage in 2017 MLC polls, the deceased lost the elections and expressed his anger on them," the investigating agency said.

As per the statement of Shaik Dasthagiri, accused-turned-approver in the case, the CBI said, Siva Shankar had promised to give all the accused ₹40 crore on behalf of Bhaskar Reddy and others. Dasthagiri received ₹1 crore in advance through Y Sunil Yadav, accused no. 2 in the case.

Further, the CBI said Ranganna, Viveka's watchman, saw four accused -- Y Gangi Reddy, Y Sunil Yadav, G Umashankar Reddy and Shaik Dasthagiri - flee the former minister's house after killing him.

RSS march passes off peacefully at 45 places in TN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE RSS route march passed off peacefully amid tightened police security across 45 places in Tamil Nadu on Sunday. Speakers taking part in the event stressed on unity among Hindus and also curbing separatist forces. Wearing white shirt, khaki pants and black shoes, the participants marched for a few kilometres after which speakers addressed the gathering.

As Chennai city police had denied permission for the processions, marches were held in areas coming under Avadi and Tambaram police commissionerate.

R Vanniyarajan, president of RSS south India unit, said, "I would like to thank the state government as its denial of permission for the march made the news about RSS reach every household in Tamil Nadu. RSS is following Swami Vivekanandha's path of doing God's work. The sangh is working towards achieving BR Ambedkar's aim of abolishing caste in India."

Dr Arunachalam, state president of the Confederation of Chettiar Associations, said, "There should be separate laws for Hindus, and Hindus should unite to strengthen the country." He also said he was attracted to RSS because there was no caste discrimination in the sangh.

A few speakers also hit out at Dravidian ideology. At Trichy, RSS' Tamil Nadu south zone organiser K Arumugam said, "No separatist thoughts or ideology can be encouraged in India, including Dravidianism. We should follow our national heritage and do away with foreign practices. All swayam sevaks must get involved in the battle against untouchability and caste-based discrimination."

After participating in a rally in Coimbatore, BJP leader H Raja said the state police is allowing "evil forces" to operate and trying to suppress patriotic forces. "Why did the police and state government not take any action against separatist forces who demand separate Tamil Nadu," he asked.

Kerala train arson accused booked under UAPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kozhikode

Shahrukh Saifi, the accused in the Elathur train arson attack case has been charged with sections under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) paving way for the investigation to be taken up by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The special investigation team(SIT) probing the attack added section 16 of the UAPA Act for terrorist acts and submitted the report at Kozhikode Additional Sessions Court on Sunday.

Saifi's police custody period will end on Tuesday, while the SIT has been trying to obtain information from the accused for the last week. The accused poured petrol on the passengers of D1 and D2 compartments of Alappuzha - Kannur Executive Express on April 2 at 9.30 pm at Elathur. Three people were killed in the attack. The SIT has taken Saifi to Kannur, where the D1 and D2 coaches of the train are kept, and to Shoranur, from where the accused bought petrol for the attack. However, the accused is yet to be taken to the railway track in Elathur, where the attack occurred, for evidence collection.

On April 6,Saifi was brought to the AR police camp in Maloorkunnu in Kozhikode, and on April 8, he was remanded for 14 days. The Kozhikode Chief Judicial Magistrate Court remanded him to police custody for 11 days for interrogation, following the request of the special investigation team. The court will consider Saifi's bail plea on Tuesday.

DMK slaps Annamalai with legal notice, seeks apology

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE DMK has slapped BJP state president K Annamalai with a legal notice seeking an unconditional apology over his allegations against the party and its president M K Stalin, the Tamil Nadu chief minister, within 48 hours. The ruling party also demanded damages to the tune of ₹500 crore that would be donated to the CM's public relief fund.

The notice, dated April 15 and released to reporters on Sunday, was issued by DMK's organising secretary RS Bharathi and pointed out that the allegations lacked any material basis or cogent evidence. As Annamalai and his party were not able to make an electoral mark in TN, he has been making constant attempts to defame, scandalise and tarnish the reputation of the DMK president, and other leaders and members of the party, the notice charged.

Regarding Annamalai listing several assets and alleging they were all owned by the DMK, Bharathi said "You (Annamalai) must understand the basic difference between assets of an individual and the asset of a political party." As an example, he recalled that in 2019 the BJP constructed a party office in New Delhi and one in Madhya Pradesh at the cost of ₹700 crore and ₹100 crore respectively. Stating that the BJP had not disclosed the source of the funds for the buildings, he asked, "Can it be assumed that the entire money was a result of corruption and from ill-gotten wealth?"

The notice also quoted from a recent media investigation, according to which the BJP had secured ₹5,270 crore out of ₹9,208 crore donated through electoral bonds sold between 2018 and 2022.

EDITORIAL

If I see anything vital around me, it is precisely that spirit of adventure, which seems indestructible and is akin to curiosity

Marie Curie

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

MURDER OF UP DON UNDER PROTECTION GRAVE SECURITY LAPSE

The dramatic late-night murder of mobster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh is a chilling reminder of how gun culture is still prevalent in the state. It is a searing indictment of the UP Police, which failed to create a sterile zone to keep the brothers safe despite throwing a security ring around them. Assailants penetrating the media to shoot the duo down from point-blank range in cold blood appeared straight out of a reality TV show as cameras were rolling when they pulled the trigger. It showed the complete failure of the state's intelligence network if not collusion. That the killers did not have an exit strategy and gave themselves up without resistance indicated high motivation and a well-thought-out plan. Whether they were hired guns or those wronged by the mafia leader out to wreak vengeance is a matter of investigation. Atiq personified the criminalisation of UP politics. Mulayam Singh Yadav used him to storm a guest house and rough up Mayawati and her lawmakers in 1995 when it became known that the BSP was pulling out of the coalition government with the SP. His vote to save the UPA, which was struggling to fend off a no-confidence motion in 2008, was crucial, as he was brought out on furlough from jail to cast his ballot in Parliament.

Prayagraj was where Atiq lived by the gun and died by it. It was his stomping ground for decades, where he was the last word in muscle power and politics. Many judges refused to hear his bail petitions, and jailers feared having him in their prisons. Nevertheless, he feared for his life when the state police recently sought to take him to Prayagraj from a Gujarat jail for questioning in the Umesh Pal murder case. Only an impartial investigation can reveal whether the purpose of bringing Atiq to Prayagraj was to ferret out his youngest son, who was eliminated in the police encounter a few days ago.

Going forward, heads must roll in the UP Police to fix accountability right at the top. Their incompetence needs to be called out though the government hurriedly did damage limitation by setting up a judicial probe panel. The state government patting itself on its back for restoring the rule of law does not carry as much conviction any more. Piecemeal solutions will not work. Even the dons deserve better.

GOOD NUMBERS, BUT LONG WAY FOR MANUFACTURING

The doubling of India's smartphone exports in FY23 to ₹90,000 crore, or $11 billion, should be celebrated, albeit with a caveat. The smartphone and electronics export numbers suggest the much-touted Production Linked Incentive scheme might work in some manufacturing segments. However, we should look closer into the export numbers instead of getting carried away. The smartphone export data might make one believe that the manufacturing sector is finally gathering steam. The truth could be far from that.

Merchandise exports, which reflect the manufacturing and industrial performance, did show a minor contraction in FY23 if we exclude petroleum exports. The last financial year was unique because India took advantage of the geopolitical tensions and sanctions on Russia and imported cheap crude oil. It then exported refined petroleum products to other countries. As a result, the share of petroleum product exports in Indian merchandise exports increased from 16% in FY22 to 21.12% in FY23. Petroleum product exports grew by 40%, even as our overall merchandise exports grew by only 6%.

There are many detractors of the government's PLI scheme and its ability to prop up the country's manufacturing sector. For some sectors, the scheme has been there for three years now. As many as 14 sectors have been covered by the scheme, and the scheme's results in these sectors will start showing only in time. However, so far, the results are not very encouraging, especially if one looks at the contribution of manufacturing to GDP. In FY23, the contribution of manufacturing value added came down to 13% of GDP from 14% in the previous two years. On the other hand, services exports have helped India post impressive overall export numbers surpassing the $750 billion target. The contribution of services exports to India's exports increased by 42% in FY23 from 37.67% in FY22.

The government's focus on prepping up manufacturing is largely because it creates enough low-skill jobs—millions of which India might need given its young demography. While manufacturing should be pursued, the government should ensure that it does not misallocate resources in its efforts to do so. In doing so, it should not ignore the services sector, which has served India well over the years. As for creating low-skill jobs, the government should relook at the agriculture and allied sectors if the manufacturing sector fails to do that job.

QUICK TAKE

FIGHTING MATHS PHOBIA

Make maths friendly for students by using rangoli and embroidery art patterns and geometric ones from architecture, suggests the National Curriculum Framework. It is a creative technique to fight maths phobia. But these methods are only tools and do not work in isolation. The NCF must first create the necessary processes in schools. One, maths anxiety surveys are essential in schools for assessing anxiety levels and segregating students accordingly. Two, ensure students have the basic skills and design activities to tax their working memories to remember equations and formulae. Three, re-shape teachers' attitudes so they also show a love of maths.

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice M R Shah has overruled three earlier judgments of the court rendered in 2011. The judgments were in the cases of *State of Kerala v. Raneef, Arup Bhuyan v. Union of India* and *Indra Das v. State of Assam*. The court, in these cases, said that mere membership in a banned organisation could not make one liable under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) or Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA). According to these verdicts, beyond "mere membership", the prosecution should allege and prove a "guilty mind" to attract the offences under UAPA or TADA. This is no longer a good law, as now held by the court in the *Arup Bhuyan* review judgment delivered on March 24.

Mere association with a banned organisation will henceforth amount to an offence under the UAPA. At first blush, this might seem to be a statement of the obvious which is also in tune with the text of the law. Yet, on deeper analysis, the verdict turns extremely illiberal and pernicious as it aids the executive, which has an alarming track record of human rights violations.

As Justice Holmes famously put it, the life of the law is not logic; it is experience. Like the TADA, the UAPA also has a humiliating history. The State has been, in many cases, misusing the legal provisions and trapping the innocent.

Justice Ranganath Misra Commission, in a comprehensive report, found that between May 1985 and March 1993, there were a total of 52,998 arrests under the TADA, and according to the courts which tried these cases, only 434 (0.8%) of the arrestees were found to have related to any kind of terrorist association. This will precisely mean that an autocratic state or the persons running it can make false allegations of membership in a banned organisation to victimise an individual or a group of individuals for political or personal reasons. Let us recall that in many draconian laws like TADA, POTA and UAPA, conventional principles of criminal law are turned upside down. Unlike the "traditional" system, in the context of many of the stringent legislations of our times, confession before the police or investigating agency becomes evidence in support of the prosecution. The burden on the prosecution to prove the guilt is replaced by the burden on the accused to prove their innocence. Jail, not bail, is the new normal. In such a scenario, the mere allegation of membership supported by the alleged confession (often obtained by duress) can lead to long-term incarceration of human beings, both before and after the trial. Viewed so, the proposition that mere membership is enough to attract the provisions of UAPA can act as an incentive to the abuses of the law. This is the danger in overturning the 2011 verdicts.

There are illustrative cases which expose the rampant misuse of UAPA as well. Two students from Kerala, Allan Shuhaib and Thwaha Fasal, were chargesheeted under the UAPA. As bail was denied, they were in jail for many months. Section 43D (5) of the UAPA says that bail should not be granted if "on a perusal of the case diary or the report (of the investigation) .... there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation .... is prima facie true". This would mean that the version of the prosecution could be the sole basis for denying bail under the UAPA. Again, Section 43E of the UAPA essentially draws a presumption of guilt instead of innocence, thereby drastically deviating from the established principles of criminal law.

The significant point is that a draconian law can have an inherent tendency to limit the court's discretion in deciding the question of bail or even deciding on the ultimate charges. The task before the constitutional courts, especially the Supreme Court, is to carry out an emancipatory role when faced with the content of the law, which on the face of it, negates the constitutionally guaranteed freedom. In *Union of India v. K A Najeeb* (2021), the Supreme Court said that when fundamental rights are violated, even the rigour of Section 43D (5) of the UAPA cannot prevent the court from granting bail. In the *Thwaha Fasal* case that put the students in prison for a long duration, the Supreme Court later said that ideological inclinations do not lead to an inference of offence. The Delhi High Court, while granting bail to the student activists Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita and Asif Iqbal Tanha, said that participation in public protests could not be termed as incitement for violence as visualised under the UAPA. By that time, the students had been behind bars for a long time.

Not only the draconian laws but even the provisions in the conventional laws are vulnerable to misuse. Take, for example, the provisions on sedition, i.e., Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code. Many were targeted by the State for comments that were apparently harmless and were an expression of opinion. On May 11 last year, the top court suspended the invocation of the anti-sedition law in India. However, by then, several victims of this law had been penalised. They include student Amulya Leona, folk singer Kovan and many others. In the recent defamation case against Rahul Gandhi, tried by a Surat Court, which led to his disqualification, the offences alleged arose from what he spoke during an election campaign. It demonstrates the fragility of our democracy where even a satire invoked during a public speech could be the reason to nullify the people's mandate.

Institutions are not abstract entities. Those are run by individuals who, in turn, determine the credibility and legitimacy of the institutions. In Delhi, many cases have been registered in recent times for affixing political postures against the prime minister. The rampant misuse of penal provisions is the most glaring symptom of democratic deterioration.

The courts in India face a great challenge when confronted with legislation which visibly tends to diminish freedom and dignity. We have found few instances where the Supreme Court tried to tackle the potential danger of draconian legal provisions, though belatedly. But in the *Arup Bhuyan* review judgment, one finds a U-turn as it reflects and strengthens an unhealthy shift towards an illiberal judiciary that encourages an illiberal regime. It is the freedom of the unfree man that matters in a democracy.

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The task before the SC is to carry out an emancipatory role when faced with the content of the law, which on the face of it, negates the constitutionally guaranteed freedom

WHEN THE COURT STANDS WITH THE STATE

KALEESWARAM RAJ

Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

SOUMYADIP SINHA

EID MUBARAK: STORIES FROM WEST ASIA TO WARM YOUR HEART

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

With Eid greetings in advance to all, I would like to retell some stories from Islamic heritage. 'Tahira' means pure and good in Arabic and back in the sixth century, even the constantly warring Arabs of that era could tell a lady. That's what they called a certain single woman, Makkah-born and based, who traded all over the Arabian Peninsula and maintained her own establishment, employing a number of men. Tahira, at 40, was a widow and a person of repute, respected for her wealth and dignity by everyone around. But she needed a bright, honest man to manage her caravans and trade on her behalf in faraway places.

Someone told her about an orphan of 25, who was known to be exceptionally straightforward. Tahira thought she would like to employ him and negotiated through his uncle, Abu Talib, to hire him.

The young man was sent to Damascus in charge of one of Tahira's caravans, loaded with all sorts of profitable goods. Tahira was not an astute businesswoman for nothing. She appointed her slave, Muaser, to keep watch over her new manager and give her a full account of every detail of his conduct.

The good report she had of him made her think well of her new employee. Tahira sent him a proposal of marriage through his uncle. He agreed and their wedding took place in 595 CE, with Tahira providing her own dower.

But some women in Makkah found fault with the match. "How could a wealthy person like her marry that penniless man raised on the charity of the Banu-Hashem tribe?" they exclaimed.

Tahira and her husband were too happy to care, despite the 15-year age gap. Their marriage lasted a full 25 years until her death at the age of 65. They had two sons and four daughters. Both sons, Qasim and Abdullah, took ill and died very young. A daughter, Ruqaiyya, went and settled far away with her husband in Abyssinia (Ethiopia). Besides these sorrows, Tahira also had to bear poverty, hardship and great hostility against her husband when he began his life's work. Through all this, she was staunchness personified.

Her husband, they say, never looked elsewhere through all the years of their marriage. Ever after her passing, he spoke of her in glowing terms, with respect, love and gratitude for her support.

So, the first Muslim was a loyal woman: Tahira, whose real name was Khadija, whose husband was the Prophet Muhammad. Islamic tradition states that she believed in him when nobody did.

Another story comes from Persian tradition, from the *Masnavi*, a literary work by a thirteenth century theologian and poet, Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi. His verses, 'recreated' through English translations by American writer Coleman Barks, were all the rage over twenty years ago. I was disappointed later to discover that Rumi reportedly called Indians 'black and ugly infidels' who should be ruled by the Turks. Contrarily, this story is charming.

> The poor shepherd was shattered by this rant. What had he said that was so wrong? Sobbing heartbrokenly, he apologised to the great prophet and led his flock away, feeling wretched and bereft

There was this unworldly shepherd whose heart overflowed with love for the Creator. All day long, as he tended his flock, he would talk aloud to God: "Where are you, my Beloved? How I long to serve you."

One day, Hazrat Moosa (the prophet Moses) passed by the meadow where the shepherd's flock was grazing and heard him call aloud: "God, where are you, that I might stitch your clothes, mend your socks, polish your shoes, comb your hair and bring you a cup of milk?"

Hazrat Moosa was horrified at what he considered blasphemy of the formless Almighty. "How dare you speak to God like that?" He raged. "Stuff cotton in your worthless mouth if this is how you blaspheme; at least, others will be spared the sin of listening to your polluting words. Is God a mere human, that he needs to drink milk and have his hair combed and his shoes polished? You insult the Almighty by such talk, you enemy of religion. Let us pray that the Creator will not punish the whole human race because of you."

The poor shepherd was shattered by this rant. What had he said that was so wrong? Sobbing heartbrokenly, he apologised to the great prophet and led his flock away, feeling wretched and bereft.

Proud that he had caught and taught an erring person, Hazrat Moosa marched grandly away when the Lord's annoyed voice arrested him. "Why did you interfere with me and mine, Moosa?" asked the Almighty from up above. "Who authorised you to separate the lover from the Beloved? Did I make you my prophet to bring humanity to me or to drive it away?"

Stunned, Hazrat Moosa fell to his knees.

"I did not create this world for my profit, Moosa," said the Lord sternly. "My creation is for the benefit of my creatures. I have no need of praise and worship; it is the worshipper who benefits, not I. Nor do I care about what form the worship takes. Try to understand me, Moosa. It is the sincerity of the heart alone that interests me. Those bound by outward correctness are unlike those bound by their love for me. Those who love me know no religion but their Beloved."

Humbled and repentant, Hazrat Moosa went back to look for the shepherd. After much searching, he finally found him in tatters, meditating by a spring. He eagerly related what had passed but the shepherd had no more to say. With a compassionate smile, he simply moved away.

On a lighter note, another story from the 13th century concerns Mulla Nasruddin, a Turkish Sufi known for his sarcasm. Nasruddin was taking a shortcut home through the cemetery and saw a burial going on. As he walked past the mourners, he heard one of them say: "Alas, today we have buried an honest man and a politician."

"How strange," said the Mulla. "They have buried two people in one grave."

There are other such stories to explore from the tradition beyond Aladdin and Sindbad.

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MAILBAG

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Congress politics

Prabhu Chawla's *Child's play politics in Congress* (Apr 16) is an enlightened analysis. Active and spirited children in the Congress party who believed in the phrase 'nothing succeeds like success' are choosing to think they can have other prospects instead of wasting their talents in their parent party, where they find themselves having no value. This switching of position is all due to one successor's childish mannerisms.
Jitendranath Guru, Padampur

Pawar's choice

It's an exclusive as well as an explosive scoop of news that *Shinde going, going... Ajit Pawar readies to be Maha successor* (Apr 16). If this is true, then can this be Sharad Pawar's nemesis at the fag end of his tumultuous political career? He is obviously at crossroads: one leading to the BJP and the other to the Opposition. The choice is his!
K Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

Vande Bharat

The arrival of Vande Bharat trains will accelerate the development in Kerala. Now the CM and LDF should apologise to the people in the state for the impractical Silverline project where no sanctions have been obtained, withdraw all the cases and compensate the victims.
Eappen Elias, Thiruvananthapuram

Same-sex marriage

This is with reference to the column, *The jurisprudence of same-sex marriage* (Apr 16). Faisal C K's defence of same-sex marriage quoting liberal thoughts is not quite convincing. Let any couple live together as partners without any legal objection. But demanding 'marriage status' is not appropriate. Marriage will also imply divorce and separate laws for the same. Why do such couples seek society's approbation?
R Narasimhan, Chennai

Star-struck pupils

This is with reference to *Astro labs in western UP govt schools have students star-struck* (Apr 16). Whenever novel methods are introduced in schools, it certainly attracts students. It has caused a jump in attendance. Like smart classrooms, Astro labs should be established in every primary school across the nation to improve enrollment.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Police alertness

This is with reference to *Atiq and brother Ashraf shot dead on camera* (Apr 16). The gruesome incident clearly underpins lack of police alertness. It was evident that the deceased were under tight security, yet the assailant had managed to reach them.
K Ruthvik Goud, Vizianagaram

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Pramod Sawant @DrPramodPSawant
The National Digital Health Mission initiated by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji, is a major step towards Universal Health Coverage in India

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
The more the population, the more rights! Caste census is the basis for giving proper representation to every class, the deprived have the right

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
The manner in which ghastly UP killings took place in the presence of heavy police escort points towards official connivance

Steady improvement in ties with US: Jaishankar

Discusses global, regional matters with US Secy of State Blinken

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke over the phone with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday and discussed global and regional matters.

"A warm conversation as always with Secretary Blinken. We discussed current regional and global issues and noted the steady progress in our bilateral ties," said Jaishankar.

The EAM has just concluded his visit to Uganda and Mozambique and Secretary Blinken to Vietnam. It was Blinken's first visit to Vietnam as Secretary and he spoke about US' commitment to elevate the US-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership and to work together to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The US has always spoken about strengthening the Indo-Pacific with India as a steady partner. With the Chinese building up around Taiwan and US's constant support to Taiwan, tension is rising.

Jaishankar and Blinken had met in March in Delhi during the G20 Foreign Ministers meet. On the sidelines of the event they had a bilateral meeting.

On Saturday, the Indo-Pacific Coordinator of the US National Security Council, Kurt Campbell while addressing a programme 'Celebrating Togetherness' talked about strong people-to-people ties between India and the US. He said that the ties between the two nations will get better in future.

"There is no stronger people-to-people ties between any country that the US enjoys with India. We have built a stronger relationship and situation will only get better, it will get stronger and deeper," Campbell said.

In March, Jaishankar and Blinken had participated in discussions on how to mitigate the global impacts of the ongoing Russia-Ukarine war.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meet. They spoke about shared efforts to elevate strategic and defense technology cooperation, promote food, energy and global health security, clean energy transition, counternarcotics cooperation, and women's economic empowerment.

SC flays gender bias in Army Dental Corps recruitment process

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has pointed out "an anomalous situation" in the recruitment process for women in Army Dental Corps.

Noting that male candidates having rank till 2,394 were allowed to participate in the selection process whereas the cut off rank for women was 235, a bench of justices BR Gavai and Aravind Kumar prima facie opined the government stand was violative of Article 14 of the Constitution as it denied women their fundamental right.

"We find that an anomalous situation has arisen due to such a stand. Whereas a male candidate who is 10 times less meritorious than a female candidate is permitted to appear in the selection process, a female candidate who is 10 times meritorious than a male candidate is deprived from being participating in the selection process," the court said.

It further said: "Prima facie, we find that depriving the highly meritorious female candidates from participating in the selection process is putting the clock in reverse direction. Leave aside giving preferential treatment to the female as envisaged under Article 15, the stand of the respondent – Union of India – is violative of Article 14, inasmuch as it deprives a meritorious female to compete and permits much less meritorious male to participate in the selection process."

Additional Solicitor Genera KM Nataraj argued that this was on the ground of various exigencies which are peculiar to the defence services. It was also his contention that this had resulted in stalling the entire selection process which thereby deprived the defence service of dental surgeon.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
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Paradise Regained

SHAH FORCES WARRING J&K BABUS TO BURY HATCHET

Union home minister Amit Shah convened a high-level meeting last week to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where preparations are on to host two important events – the Amarnath Yatra and a G20 meeting of its tourism working group. Top officers of IB, NIA, RAW, CRPF, and the NSA and home ministry bosses attended the meeting. It largely focussed on deploying adequate security personnel to ensure that no untoward incident happened during the two events. Shah's attention was also drawn to a peculiar issue of the state's two top officers working at cross-purposes. The tussle between J&K chief secretary A K Mehta and DGP Dilbagh Singh has been a subject of discussion in Srinagar and Delhi. A recent decision by the state's home department to transfer over two dozen Deputy Superintendents of Police was said to have been taken by the chief secretary without keeping the DGP in the loop. This indicated a severe erosion of the DGP's authority as the transfer and posting of police personnel falls in the DGP's domain. Reports started doing rounds that the DGP may be shifted out. But as the matter reached Delhi durbar, the state's power equation seems to have reversed. The chief secretary was reportedly asked not to meddle in the affairs of the police. Sources said that the home minister was so miffed with the tussle between Mehta and Singh that some of the officers, including top ADGs of Police, considered close to Mehta were not even allowed to attend the meeting and were made to sit out. Shah's intervention has doused the fire. But sources said that the trouble in the paradise would continue as differences between the two top officers were irreconcilable.

Nitish Kumar

Mamata Banerjee

Rahul Gandhi

Sharad Pawar

History Lessons

SAMATA REDUX: NITISH TO UNDO CONG UNTOUCHABILITY

Nitish Kumar and his Samata Party colleague George Fernandes had given legitimacy to the BJP in the late nineties when it was considered a political pariah. Nitish's decision to join hands with the BJP ended the latter's untouchability and opened doors for other parties to do business with it. Over two decades after his decision that changed the country's landscape, Nitish Kumar has again taken responsibility for removing the tag of untouchability from a political party. This time it is for Congress. At a meeting with Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, the issue of opposition regional leaders' reluctance to do business with the Congress came up. These leaders are Mamata Banerjee, K Chandrashekar Rao, Jaganmohan Reddy, Naveen Patnaik and Arvind Kejriwal. Nitish assured the Congress leaders that he would contact these leaders to ensure a non-BJP government if the numbers add up to allow that scenario. This time around, Nitish will be helped by NCP leader Sharad Pawar, who has also promised to pitch in for opposition unity. The other key issue in last week's unity talks related to the election plank. While Congress has been focused mainly on the Adani issue, its allies want "caste, corruption, karmachari, kisan" to be the poll plank, sources said. They want a shrill campaign against BJP-led central government's refusal to conduct a caste census, a debate on old versus new pension schemes and other topics related to government employees and farmers, besides the Adani scam. Sources said the Congress appeared amenable to all the suggestions made by Nitish and Pawar, including the Maratha strongman's suggestion to Rahul to go slow on his criticism of Savarkar.

NHAI issues norms for stone-laying functions to be attended by PM

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

TO streamline foundation stone laying ceremonies and inauguration functions of national highway projects that will be attended by the Prime Minister, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has come up with a set of guidelines.

Preparation of project brief for the PM, dias plan, including backdrop at the stage, minute-to-minute programme plan, speech/talking points to be delivered by the PM and dignitaries are among 20-point standard operating procedure (SoP) prepared by the Authority to avoid last minute goof-ups.

> **Only empanelled media, event management and exhibit development agencies to be engaged for all events by the Prime Minister**
>
> NHAI

In the SoP, criteria for selection of projects for 'foundation laying ceremony', 'inauguration' and 'dedication to nation' have clearly been defined. Provisions have been made for a four-member panel of officials which will visit sites and in consultation with the NHAI. For each activity – finalisation of details and approvals – a deadline has been fixed.

According to the SoP, brief comprising salient features of the projects, including social and economic benefits, will be prepared by 10 days in advance and shared with the PMO, which will also be given details of dignitaries to be present on the occasion, other invitees, dais plan and backdrop for the stage.

The public representatives of the parliamentary constituency, assembly or district in which the project is located need to be considered for the invitation.

"All information to be shared with PMO to be processed in proper files and follow due channels through the minister's office. Only empanelled media, event management and exhibit agencies to be engaged for all events by the PM," states the SoP.

"Movement of all dignitaries, invites and guests is critical in maintaining decorum of the event with so many public representatives sharing the same stage," read the chapter.

CBI lodges 110 graft cases against 166 senior officers in 5 years

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

LAW-ENFORCING agencies, including the CBI, has registered corruption cases against over 100 civil services officers in the last five years. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has also recommended actions against a large number of officers.

According to data with the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension, the government has registered 110 corruption cases against 166 civil service officers (mostly IAS and senior state officers) between 2018 and February 28, 2023 through CBI alone.

"Between 2018 and February 28, 2023, Maharashtra has registered the highest number of 35 cases against the civil service officers for their alleged involvements in "unethical professional" practices, like bribery and taking undue benefits with the use of their power and position. After Maharashtra, J&K registered the second highest number of 18 cases", the government data showed, which has been accessed by this newspaper.

Karnataka registered 14 cases of corruption, while Uttar Pradesh lodged 13 cases against their civil service officers during the same period.

Besides, the ministry had recently informed the Rajya Sabha that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) recommended actions against 6,367 government officers from 2017 to 2021 for their involvements in corrupt practices. The data further shows, the CVC recommended for the criminal proceedings against 433 out of 6,367 officers.

According to one estimate, the total number of major and minor penalties and other actions taken during the said period were 8,794. This is in addition to 817 sanctions for prosecutions ordered by the competent authorities against corrupt government officers, including civil servants. A senior officer of IAS here, preferring anonymity, said that cases of corruption are being registered against civil service officers at a time when the country has a shortage of 850 IAS officers in particular to touch the sanctioned strength.

"Currently, there are 5317 IAS officers in position in India against sanctioned strength of 6789. UP faces the highest shortage of 67 IAS offices to meet the sanction strength of 378, followed by Maharashtra with a shortage of 57 IAS officers", the government adapt shows.

Civil servants under the lens

Total sanctioned strength of IAS in India: 6,789

In-Position IAS officers: 5,317

Shortage: 850

Central Vigilance Commission recommended actions against 6,367 civil servants from 2017-2021

Criminal Proceedings against 433 government officers and civil servants

Cases of corruption against civil service officers since 2018 to 2023: 110 cases against 116 officers

Only 45% Indians brush teeth twice compared to 83% in Japan

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

MOST Indians don't seem to brush twice daily and have the sweetest tooth, according to the latest global oral health assessment findings.

Among the six countries where the data is available, 78 to 83 per cent of respondents in China, Colombia, Italy, and Japan reported brushing twice daily, compared to only 45 percent of Indians.

"In India, patients reported the highest sugary food consumption frequency, with 32 per cent," said the study, a coordinated global data exercise held in 12 countries on a pilot basis by Oral Health Observatory (OHO), which collects data on oral health. OHO was formed by the Geneva-based FDI World Dental Federation, which represents one million dentists.

The study also found that patients in China and India predominantly brush their teeth before breakfast, while in Colombia, Italy, and Japan, they are most likely to clean their teeth after eating.

Thirty-two percent of patients in India reported the highest sugary food consumption frequency compared to only 11 per cent in China.

'Indians have sweetest tooth'

32% of patients in India reported highest sugary food consumption frequency

51% Only in India have visited a dentist in the past year

It is only 11% in China | It is 80% in Japan

Source: International Dental Journal

The study, which was published in the International Dental Journal, also found that patients in China and India were the most likely to have never visited a dentist. "In all countries, most patients had seen a dentist in the last year, ranging between 51 per cent in India to 80 per cent in Japan," said the study.

The most common reason for not seeing a dentist was not having severe issues or being too busy and also, being afraid of or not liking dentists.

According to Dr. Rajeev Chitguppi, Mumbai-based periodontics, Indians don't give priority to their oral health. "They take it for granted till a problem arises. Lack of awareness is one reason and lack of priority is the second but main reason. It becomes a priority only when they face a dental issue."

"Many patients start brushing twice daily after they take a dental treatment and their dentist advises them to brush twice daily. However, the motivation doesn't last long in many," he told this paper.

The study said that except for Japan, most patients claimed their oral health to be good or very good. Eighty percent of Japanese patients rated their oral health as poor or very poor. Most patients across the countries complained of pain or experiencing difficulty eating or chewing in the past 12 months.

The data collected till the start of the Covid-19 pandemic is now available from six countries: India, China, Colombia, Italy, Japan, and Lebanon.

Under the exercise, the National Dental Associations recruited dentists for the survey among patients, who were asked questions on demographics, dental attendance, oral health behaviours, and clinical measures using a mobile app.

ADR challenges appointment of EC in SC

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has moved Supreme Court challenging the appointment of Arun Goel as Election Commissioner.

The appointment had attracted SCs attention while the bench was hearing pleas which had sought transparent mechanism for appointment of EC & CEC. The bench had grilled centre for the lightening speed with which he was designated and had remarked that the file was cleared in "haste" and "tearing hurry".

ADR in the plea which will be heard by the SC bench led by Justice KM Joseph on Monday has termed Goel's appointment as "arbitrary", "violative of institutional integrity and independence of Election Commission of India."

It has been argued in the plea that UOI & Goel through their acts of omissions and commission participated in a carefully orchestrated 'selection procedure' for their own benefits.

"The Union of India while substantiating the appointment of Shri Arun Goel has submitted that he was the youngest of the four persons on the panel and thereby would have the longest tenure in the Election Commission of India," the plea stated.

Govt taking stock of supply of pulses as prices shoot up

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

CONCERNED about rising price of pulses in an election year, the government is mounting pressure on stockists, millers, food processors and traders to declare their stocks of pigeon pea (tur/arhar) and black gram so that the government knows the stock availability that will help it take the right decision.

In Bihar for instance, tur prices has increased nearly 89 per cent to ₹14,500 a quintal as of April this year from ₹7,681.36/quintal in April last year.

Senior officers of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) have already visited 12 centres of pulses-producing regions. Imports of pulses have also been continuing from Africa and Myanmar. According to trade analysts, India has imported 8.75 LT of tur and 5.12 LT of black gram by March 23.

"We are knocking on doors of every possible small-to mid-level traders to make them feel that they are under the government's radar," said a senior officer of the DoCA who recently visited Latur mandi in Maharashtra, one of the largest tur mandis. The government needs to know the stock availability in the country to take the right decision, said Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, DoCA

In 2022-23, the kharif pulses sowing areas were reduced by around 4 per cent due to erratic rainfall in major growing areas like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The latest estimation of tur production is 36 LT, lower than 6 LT in the previous year.

Since October last year, the government has been saying it is keeping an eye on the pulses crisis. The government seemed to have not made timely market intervention by procuring pulses directly from farmers. It started procurement in March only. Interestingly, the procurement agency National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has not revealed any data on the procurement target and how much it has procured yet.

"Despite knowing of lesser production, it hadn't started procurement during harvesting season in November-December," says a Latur-based pulses trader. The government has fixed tur's minimum support price (MSP) as ₹6,600/quintal, while market price was hovering ₹8,000. Later, the government came up with Buffer Procurement Price (BPP), which was a bit higher than the MSP.

In mid-February, NAFED consulted farmers' outfits in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka to help them in procurement. However, they refused to comply as BPP was still lower than market price.

Going through the roof

State wise Wholesale Prices Monthly Analysis for Dal (Arhar/Tur)

STATES	PRICES IN APRIL 2023	PRICES IN APRIL 2022	CHANGE OVER
Karnataka	11,771.73	9,562.21	23.11%
MP	6,899.22	5,108	35.04%
Maharashtra	10,500	9,125	15.06%
Bihar	14,500	7,681.36	88.77%

*prices per quintal | Source: Agmarket.in

MAN MAULED TO DEATH

A man was mauled to death by stray dogs in the premises of Aligarh Muslim University on Sunday, police said. Safdar Ali, was out on a morning walk in a garden when the dogs attacked him.

3 Kg HEROIN DROPPED BY PAK DRONE RECOVERED

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	40	28	Mumbai	36	28
Bhopal	39	25	Panaji	32	27
Jaipur	39	26	Patna	43	27
Amritsar	40	24	Lucknow	42	25
Chennai	35	27	Port Blair	33	26
Kolkata	41	30	Imphal	35	16
Srinagar	22	10	Chandigarh	41	26

Ajit Pawar has made up his mind, says Sena's Raut

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

AFTER reports about Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde exiting, projected to be replaced by Ajit Pawar as new chief minister, a sudden disquiet has descended on state politics. Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi leader Prakash Ambedkar said that in the next fortnight, two major political developments could be expected.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Sanjay Raut in his weekly column in Samana confirmed the development. He referred to a meeting of former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar where the latter said "no one wants to leave the party from the bottom of their heart. "But his family has been targeted and if anyone wants to take a decision, it will be their individual decision. It will not be the party's decision to join hands with the BJP. NCP as a party will not support the BJP," Pawar reportedly told Uddhav Thackeray where Sanjay Raut was also present.

This paper had reported that Ajit Pawar along with at least 35 NCP MLAs will switch sides and will be made the chief minister. However, the group of NCP MLAs did not want to break the party or join hands with the BJP without the consent of Sharad Pawar.

Raut claims Sharad Pawar further told him that if anyone joins the BJP, then it will be their political suicide. "There is an anti-incumbent sentiment in Maharashtra. People are angry with the present government. It is not good politics to use the central agencies to break parties," said Raut.

"Both Pawar and Thackeray agreed, if anyone leaves the MVA, then it will be a political suicide," Raut stated. Raut also claims in his column that Sharad Pawar said that those who would leave the party due to fear of Central agencies, their "files lying on the ED's table will be kept in the cupboard."

Wife, two sons skip Atiq's burial

Gangster-turned-politician and his brother fell to bullets of three assailants

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

Workers dig graves for Atiq and Ashraf in Prayagraj on Sunday | PTI

THE bodies of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Kahlid Azim alias Ashraf, were laid to rest at their family graveyard in Kasari Masari on late Sunday evening.

The two were killed by three assailants on Saturday night. Meanwhile, the autopsy report of the two claimed that while Atiq had received eight bullets, his brother Ashraf got six. Local sources said, around 70 persons, including the close relatives of Atiq and Ashraf joined their funeral procession.

Atiq's two twin minor sons — Mohmmad Azhum and Mohammad Abaan — currently in juvenile home, were taken in ambulance to the burial ground. Ashraf's daughters were also present in the graveyard.

However, Atiq's two elder sons — Umer and Ali — lodged in Lucknow and Naini jail respectively could not join the funeral as they are in judicial custody. His wife Shaista too did not turn up for the burial.

A day after the dastardly killing of gangster-turned -politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in full public view in front of Kalvin Hospital of Prayagraj on late Saturday night, the families of all three killers – Lavlesh Tiwari, 22, Sunny alias Mohit Singh, 23 and Arun Maurya, 18, -- disowned them denying any link with the trio, on Sunday. As per the FIR lodged by Prayagraj police at Shahganj police station against the three killers, all three assailants have confessed to the crime. Here are profiles of the three assailants:

Lavlesh Tiwari: The 22-year-old is a native of Banda in Bundelkhand region and comes from a lower middle-class family. As per his parents—Yagya Tiwari and Asha Tiwari, Lavlesh had been into petty crimes and was sent to jail year and a half ago for slapping a girl. "We are not aware of his actions and have nothing to do with this. He came here a few days ago. We've not been on talking terms for years," said father Yagya Tiwari.

Sunny alias Mohit Singh: The 23-year-old is a history sheeter at his native place Hamirpur in Bundelkhand region. He has got at least 13 criminal cases against him in Hamirpur and is said to be a member of dreaded Sunder Bhati gang of western UP. His name had also cropped up in the murder of a GRP personnel. Sunny has been away from his family since 2017.

Arun Kumar Maurya: The 18-year-old hails from Kadar Badi village Kasganj in western UP. He had left home in an age of 10. Arun comes from a poor financial background and is influenced by Lawrence Bishnoi and wants to be like him.

Atiq's prophecy on his death comes true

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

GANGSTER-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed would have never imagined that words uttered by him from a public platform during his Lok Sabha poll campaign trail in Phulpur in 2004, would turn out to be prophetic on Saturday night.

"*Sadak ke kinare padal milab hum*. Encounter *hoi. Ya* police *maari, ya koi apni biradari ka sirfira*. (I will be found dead by the roadside. I will be killed in an encounter either by police or by someone from the criminals' tribe)," slain don Atiq Ahmed had said way back in 2004 during his campaign trail and had won the seat for Samajwadi Party which was under the stewardship of late Mulayam Singh Yadav then.

How his words came true on Saturday night when the gangster, handcuffed with brother Ashraf, was lying dead in a pool of blood on the road in front of a local hospital, after being shot by three assailants. It was the time, when Atiq had a reign of terror not only in Prayagraj and adjoining districts.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
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Archer Deepti Kumari gets huge relief

In a major relief for archer Deepti Kumari, who had been selling tea to repay loan for buying a bow, a Chandigarh-based company — Steel Strips Wheels Limited, has come forward to provide her the archery equipments, besides providing all other facilities required to restart her practice. The company will not only provide equipment, but will also facilitate all expenses for her training, boarding and lodging with other basic essential requirements initially for at least six months. Deepti who has won more than 100 medals in her career.

Gumla bags PM's awards for public administration

Gumla, one of the most backward districts in Jharkhand, has been selected for the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration given for exemplary work by civil servants across the country. Deputy Commissioner Sushant Gaurav will receive the award under 'holistic development through inspirational district programme' – overall progress with special focus on saturation approach category. This is the first time that Jharkhand district has been selected for the award. It will be presented by PM Narendra Modi during on the occasion of Civil Services Day.

Suspended Cong leaders to stage 'dharna' in Delhi

Suspended leaders of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) will stage 'dharna' at the residence of National Congress President Mallikarjun Khadge in New Delhi after Karnataka elections, seeking removal of Jharkhand Congress Chief Rajesh Thakur and Jharkhand in-charge Avinash Pandey. Notably, JPCC had suspended Jharkhand Congress General Secretary Alok Dubey, Rajesh Gupta and Secretary Lal Kishore Nath Shahdev for six years for their 'anti-party' activities and 'false' remarks against state party president Rajesh Thakur. According to suspended leaders, due to dictatorial attitude of these two, Congress has weakened in state.

STUDENTS' STIR

Prohibitory orders imposed in Jharkhand

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

RANCHI district administration issued prohibitory orders within the radius of 200 meters in view of the students' plan to lay siege over the official residence of CM Hemant Soren on Monday, against the 60-40 ratio-based employment policy.

Notably, the students' union has been demanding implementation of employment policy based on land records (Khatiyan) and scrapping of 60:40 ration based employment policy, according to which, 60 per cent seats are reserved for the candidates of categories belonging to the state whereas 40 per cent of the available positions are designated for candidates from other states.

The three-day protest of students' organisation under the banner of Jharkhand State Students' Union (JSSU) will be kicked off on Monday with 'gherao' of CM House. After gherao, the JSSU will organize torch light procession on Tuesday seeking support from people calling Jharkhand Bandh.

Chouhan holds Dalit Mahakumbh, eyes 16% SC votes in poll-bound MP

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

WITH an eye on the 16% Dalit vote, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government organised the Ambedkar Mahakumbh in Gwalior on Sunday. The CM, along with senior BJP leaders, including two union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Jyotiraditya Scindia addressed a gathering of scheduled caste population.

Chouhan listed the initiatives taken by his government for the uplift of backward and downtrodden sections on five counts — Panch Krantis (five revolutions) — including education, employment, land for living, women empowerment and respect for all.

Just two days after he had made his government's decision public — to link the Panch Teerthas (five pilgrimages) of Dr BR Ambedkar's life with the flagship Mukhya Mantri Teerth Darshan Yojana — the CM made an announcement for the welfare of all sub castes of scheduled caste category.

The scheduled caste category has many sub castes, including Jatav, Khatik, Valmiki, Chowdhary, Balayi and Saket. "We'll constitute a Welfare Board for each sub caste of the scheduled caste category," Chouhan announced. He also talked about allocating land for establishing Baba Sahab Ambedkar Dham and Sansthan in Gwalior. Addressing the gathering, union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia lashed out against his old party — the Congress.

"I want to ask those politicians who insult the backward sections, but don't apologize and also those leaders who turn self-proclaimed messiahs of Dalits at the time of polls, where were they and what have they done for the downtrodden in the last 75 years."

Initiatives taken to uplift backward sections

MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan listed the initiatives taken by his government for the uplift of backward sections on five counts — Panch Krantis (five revolutions) — including education, employment, land for living, women empowerment and respect for all. He also made an announcement for the welfare of all sub castes of scheduled caste category.

"In 1952 when Dr BR Ambedkar contested the Lok Sabha polls, why did the Congress field a candidate against him, why did the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru campaign against him, resulting in his defeat? It's time now for all of us to not only question the Congress party, but also take revenge for it," Scindia said.

Importantly, the SC category voters constitute around 16% vote in MP and 35 out of the 230 assembly seats are reserved for SC category. In the 2013 elections, when the BJP had won a total 165 seats, it had emerged victorious on 80% of these 35 SC reserved seats.

Slugfest resurfaces in Bihar over hooch tragedy as death toll rises to 28

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

THE hooch tragedy in Bihar's East Champaran district has again triggered a political debate as at least 28 people lost their lives after allegedly consuming spurious liquor.

On the other hand, district officials are claiming that only 14 people have died allegedly after consuming spurious liquor. Former deputy chief minister and senior BJP leader Tarkishore Prasad asked the state government to call an all party meeting and review its prohibition policy in view of the hooch tragedies.

He alleged that prohibition had completely failed in Bihar as the government had also adopted an insensitive attitude towards deaths in the hooch tragedies, taking place in various districts at regular intervals. "Hooch tragedies are happening due to the nexus between the government machinery and liquor mafia," he alleged.

After all, what is the pressure on Nitish government that it is unable to take action against liquor mafia, Prasad asked while sharpening his attack on the state government.

Former chief minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha founder Jitan Ram Manjhi also demanded an all-party meeting on prohibition as the poor were falling prey to unabated bootlegging in 'dry' state. "I have been demanding an all-party meeting from the very beginning. People belonging to lower strata of society are the worst sufferers," he told the media on sidelines of East Champaran hooch tragedy.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had on Saturday commented, "I have always been saying that liquor is bad and shouldn't be consumed. I have asked authorities to take strict action against those who violate prohibition laws". The state government imposed a total ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol on April 5, 2016.

95% Indians don't know much about the Tricolour, says Flag Foundation

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE Flag Foundation of India said 95 per cent of Indians do not have a fair knowledge about the national flag.

"I would say 95 per cent of people in India do not have a fair knowledge about the Tricolour. They aren't confident whether it can be kept hoisted day and night and whether it should be made of khadi or cotton," Maj Gen (retd) Ashim Kohli, CEO, Flag Foundation of India, told this newspaper.

The Delhi-based NGO set up its 107th "Monumental Flag" at the Army's Narengi Military Station in Guwahati on Saturday. The foundation also educates people on the Tricolour and inspires them to hoist it.

"The flag could be made of cotton, khadi, silk and polyester and it has to be in the ratio of 3:2," the CEO of the Foundation said. He also said that he was sad when some "educated and senior" persons told him they had lowered the flag at the end of the celebration of Independence Day on August 15.

"The government's order is very clear. It is your right to keep it hoisted 365 days a year," Maj Gen Kohli said.

"We say 'go to America' and you will feel great to see the country's flag fluttering everywhere. Why is it not so in India? The only reason is that the right information is not going to people through any medium," he said.

The Foundation, registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1980, is run with CSR (corporate social responsibility) funds.

"Earlier, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act 1971 did not allow an Indian to wear a lapel pin or badge of the Tricolour. After an amendment to the Act, one can now wear it waist above but it has to be worn respectfully," Maj Gen Kohli said, adding, "You have to give it the kind of respect that you give to an idol at home. That is the general principle".

The Foundation helped set up the first Monumental Flag in Haryana in 2009. Thereafter, it installed the Tricolour at several institutions, both government and non-government.

"We talked about Har Ghar Tiranga. Our focus now is that it should be Har Din Tiranga," he said. "It should be the flag of the common people."

New glacial lakes pose threat to Himalayas

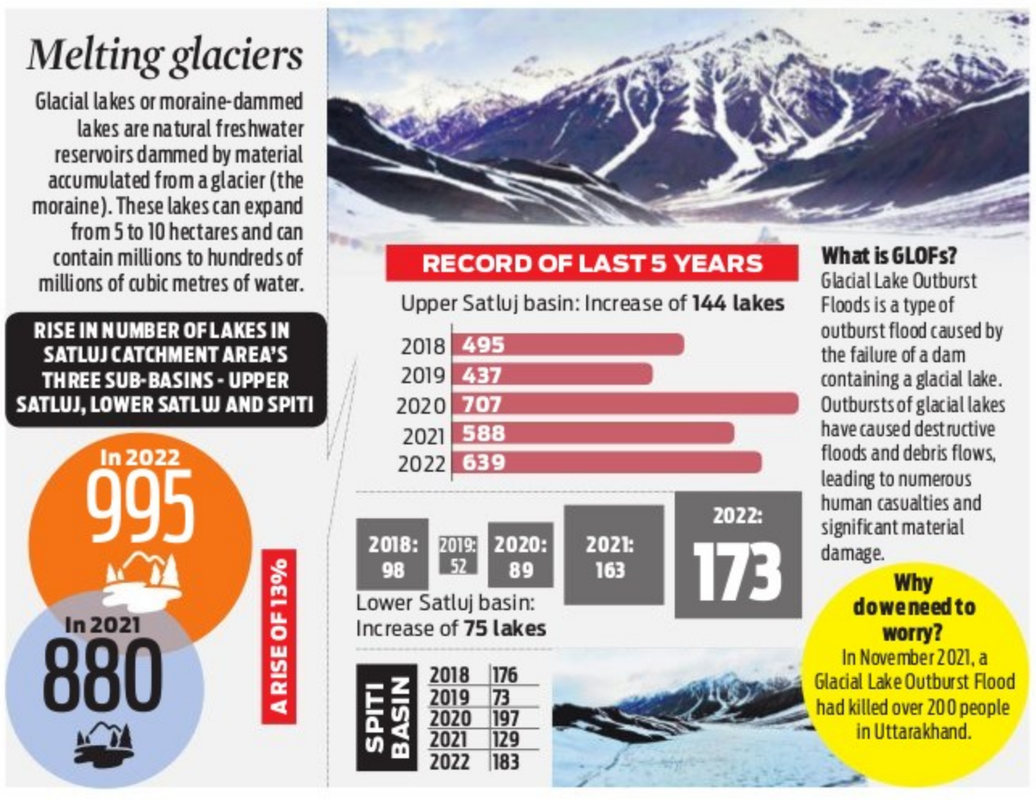
HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

The temperature over the higher Himalayan region has increased more than in the low-lying areas, thus small glacier lakes are being formed in front of the glacier snouts as well as in the glacier bodies in the Himachal-Himalaya and Trans Himalayan region of the Tibet catchment, says a study.

As per the recent study carried out by the State Centre on Climate Change of the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) in the Himachal Himalayas, based on the satellite data, the number of glacier lakes (large and small) were 995 in 2022 in comparison to 880 that were mapped in 2021 in the Satluj catchment area.

Talking with this newspaper, Lalit Jain Director (Environment) and Member Secretary of State Centre on Climate Change of the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE), said that based on the above analysis carried out for 2022 it is said that there is a considerable increase in the number of moraine dammed lakes (GLOFs) in each basin which reflects that formation of such lakes in the Higher Himalayan region.

SS Randhawa Principal Scientific Officer of HIMCOSTE, said: "The higher number of smaller lakes with area less than 5 hectare indicates that the effect of the climatic variations is more pronounced on the glaciers of the Himalayan region, particularly the Trans Himalayan Region of the Tibet catchment where in the formation of small lakes in front of the glacier snouts due to the damming of the morainic material is comparatively very high as observed from all three different sensors."



SIX
policemen died after their vehicle collided with a truck in Pakistan's Balochistan on Sunday

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	23	12	TDS	Los Angeles	21	12	LC
Colombo	32	26	LC	Melbourne	20	11	HR
Dhaka	40	28	TDS	Moscow	15	6	HR
Dubai	29	22	SNY	New York	21	11	LC
Houston	25	16	SNY	Singapore	32	27	TDS
Istanbul	19	11	LC	Toronto	8	3	LC
London	17	6	LC	Washington	21	9	LC

Terrified Sudanese seek shelter as army and paramilitary forces fight

UN's food agency World Food Programme suspends work after death of three employees

KHARTOUM

AFTER a sleepless night as fighting raged, Khartoum residents are cautiously venturing out to buy supplies fearing a prolonged fight between Sudan's regular army and paramilitaries.

"We have been living in terror since yesterday," said 43-year-old Sanaa Mohamed, outside a bakery in a northern Khartoum suburb. "The explosions terrified my children," added Mohamed, who hurried back to her family immediately after buying bread.

Like many in Sudan, Mohamed was shaken awake on Saturday by the outbreak of deadly fighting between Sudan's army and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Families spent the day sheltered in place too scared to move, but on Sunday, with the fighting showing no signs of abating, some have crept out onto the dangerous streets seeking food.

People carrying their belongings walk along a street in Khartoum, Sudan as fighting between the forces of two rival generals continues on Sunday | AFP

Much of the city is without power in searing temperatures, with people readying for one of the last days of fasting for the holy month of Ramzan.

The violence erupted after weeks of bitter arguments between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands RSF.

Meanwhile, UN's food agency on Sunday said it was suspending work in Sudan after three staff were killed in the restive Darfur region, as fighting raged between the army and paramilitaries.

"I am appalled and heartbroken by the tragic deaths of three WFP employees on Saturday (15 April) in violence in Kabkabiya, North Darfur while carrying out their life saving duties on the front lines of the global hunger crisis," Cindy McCain, executive director of the World Food Programme, said in a statement.

At least 56 civilians have been killed, according to a toll early Sunday by a group of pro-democracy medics, as well as some 600 others wounded.

Each have claimed the upper hand by declaring control of key sites, including the airport and the presidential palace. None of their claims could be independently verified.

"The shooting never stopped," said Saad Ahmed, 55, from Khartoum. At times, "the shelling was as close as 10 metres" from his home, he said.

On social media, people have shared images of bullet holes in the walls of their homes, warning others to stay away from windows and doors. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

Army troops attacked in Papua, 6 dead

Separatist gunmen attacked Indonesian army troops who were deployed to rescue a New Zealand pilot taken hostage by the rebels in Indonesia's restive Papua province, leaving at least six dead and 30 missing, officials said on Sunday. Initial information said there were about 36 soldiers at a post in Nduga, when attackers from the West Papua Liberation Army, opened fire on Saturday. At least six died and 21 others fled into the jungle. Papua military said the soldiers were part of a group that was searching for Phillip Mark Mehrtens, a New Zealand pilot who was abducted by rebels. He said authorities were searching for 30 soldiers.

implementing safety steps for elections

Thailand's Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) is thinking of implementing advanced safety measures at polling stations for the upcoming general elections on May 14. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has introduced its own protocol for transporting and storing ballot boxes to ensure transparency. The new system will notify officials immediately if any of the boxes are tampered with, and CCTV cameras will monitor the storage area, *NNT* reported.

31 collecting truffle in Syria killed in IS attack

BEIRUT

SUSPECTED Islamic State group fighters killed at least 31 people foraging for truffles in Syria on Sunday, a monitor said, in the latest such attack in the war-ravaged country.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported the killing of four shepherds by IS jihadists in a separate incident, and the abduction of two others.

"A total of 31 people, including 12 pro-regime fighters, were killed while collecting truffles in the desert east of (the central city) Hama," the Observatory said, giving a new toll.

Earlier, it reported the death of at least 26 people, a figure confirmed by the official Syrian news agency *SANA*. Also on Sunday, IS jihadists carrying automatic rifles and riding motorbikes attacked a group of shepherds in the eastern region of Deir Ezzor, the Observatory said.

The fighters stole the sheep before fleeing, and also abducted two shepherds, said the war monitor which relies on a network of sources inside Syria for its reports.

Syria's desert truffles fetch high prices in a country battered by 12 years of war and a crushing economic crisis.

Authorities frequently warn against the high-risk practice. But between February and April each year, hundreds of impoverished Syrians search for truffles in the vast Syrian desert, or Badia—a known hideout for jihadists that is also littered with landmines. *AFP*

4 Indians among 16 dead in Dubai fire

DUBAI

A fire swept through an apartment building in an older neighbourhood of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, killing at least 16 people, including four Indians and injuring another nine, authorities informed on Sunday. The Indian Consulate in Dubai confirmed that four Indians were among the dead.

"The Indian victims include Rijesh Kalangadan (38) and his wife Jeshi Kandamangalath (32). The others include Gudu Saliyakoondu (49) and Imamkasim Abdul Khader (43)," Bijender Singh, Consul, Consular and Labour at the Indian Consulate, told *PTI*.

Naseer Vatanappally, a Dubai-based businessman who volunteers with the Indian Consulate on repatriation issues, told *AP* that authorities had identified the dead as six Sudanese, four Indians, three Pakistanis, a Cameroonian, an Egyptian and a Jordanian.

Char marks are seen after an apartment fire in Dubai, UAE on Sunday | AP

The blaze on Saturday in the Al Murar area of Dubai's historic Deira neighbourhood struck an apartment believed to have been shared by multiple individuals.

A statement from Dubai Civil Defence issued by the city-state's media office gave the death toll.

The Dubai Civil Defence statement described the fire as starting on the fourth floor. The char marks, however, could be seen on the fifth floor, where glass appeared to have been blown out by the blaze.

"Preliminary investigations showed that lack of compliance with building security and safety requirements caused the fire," the statement said. "Relevant authorities are conducting a comprehensive investigation to provide a detailed report on the causes of the fire." On Sunday, char marks could be seen on the five-story apartment building, home also to a grocery store, a smoke shop and other businesses. Yellow police crime scene tape cordoned off the building. Massive Airbus A380s and Boeing 777s also roared overhead. *Agencies*

CASH-STRAPPED PAKISTAN HIKES PETROL PRICE BY RS 10 PER LITRE

ISLAMABAD: Cash-strapped Pakistan has hiked petrol price by Rs 10 per litre, amid the country's ongoing economic crisis and steep currency devaluation, further burdening citizens who are already hit by the skyrocketing inflation. After the latest revision, petrol price has now risen to Rs 282 per litre. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced the hike in a late-night live address, during which he said the prices of diesel and light diesel oil would remain unchanged at Rs 293 and Rs 174.68 respectively. The price of kerosene was also increased by Rs 5.78 to Rs 186.07. "The new prices will be effective from 12am on Sunday (April 16)," the finance minister said.

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE MAYO HALL AT BENGALURU (CCH-58)
P & S.C. No.25012/2023

Between: 1. Smt. Shanthakumari B, aged about 72 years, W/o late A. Bhakthavachalam, **2. Smt. Sangeetha Selvakumari .B,** aged about 33 years, D/o late A Bhakthavachalam, Both are R/at No.5, Standage Road, Frazer Town Bangalore-560005. ... **Petitioners**
And: Nil ... Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the above named made has petition on this Court Under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners in respect of the Schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has hold by late Bhakthavachalam who is the husband and father of the petitioners herein, who expired on 14.12.2014

Interested parties are hereby called to appear before 57th Additional City Civil Judge at Mayo Hall, Bengaluru (CCH.58) in person or by Pleader duly instructed on **26th May 2023** 11 A.M to file objections if any against the petitioners claim, failing which appearance will be heard and determined as exparte.

SCHEDULE

1. Share Certificate of equity shares of Rs.10/- each for cash at a premium of Rs. 50/- per share of state quota. The state Bank of India, issued under Employees Quota of Sri. A. Bhaktavachalam as per particulars mentioned below

Sl.No.	Reg. Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive Nos.	Number Shares of
1	SB829331	2508126	469835456-469835505	50
2.	SB829331	2508127	469835506-469835507	2
3.	SB829331	2508128	469835508	1

The present market value of the shares of Rs.2,87,790/- and provident fund vide indes No.0903043, in a sum of Rs. 1,82,949/- Together with interest of 12% P.A accrued thereon.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 11-04-2023.

By Order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit Bengaluru.

Address for Service: **K.V. Ramachandra,** Advocate, No. 149/2, Old Police Station Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CHENNAI DIVISION - ENHM WING (MECHANICAL BRANCH)
GEM Bid No. GEM/2023/B/3339316 Dt 08.04.2023

Divisional Railway Manager / EnHM Wing / Mechanical Branch / Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003, for and on behalf of President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e-tender GEM portal. The tenderer(s)/contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for outsourcing of Mechanized cleaning work at Arakkonam Railway station for 2 years in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender through GEM portal and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of tender form & EMD can be made online gate way payment through multiple bank, net banking, debit card or credit card in favour of 'Sr.DFM/MAS Southern Railway'.

Description	Location	Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of completion
Mechanized cleaning of Arakkonam Railway station for a period of 730 days	Arakkonam Railway station	2,94,03,357.14	2,97,017	730 days

Tender closing date and time: **29.04.2023 at 19:00 hrs.**
Tender opening date and time: **29.04.2023 at 19:30 hrs.**
Details of value of tender, tender form cost, EMD are given in GEM e-portal for details bid submission please refer to web portal.

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. CAO-CN-MS-PSS-01-APRIL-23, Dated: 6/10-4-2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of the Work				
Request for Proposal (RFP) for providing Project Supervision Services (PSS) for the works under Deputy Chief Engineer / GC / TPJ / Construction, Nagapattinam - Tiruturaipundi via Tirukuvalai new line (MM) and Karaikkal - Peralam with Northern connectivity to the Karaikkal Port MM				
Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion	Closing Date @ 15.00 Hrs	Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 hrs.
65289046.20	476500.00	30 Months	04.05.2023	17.04.2023 @ 11.30 Hrs.

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai- 600 008.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

REVOCATION OF GPA

Our Client **Smt. Shanthamma alias Chennamma D/o Late. B.Channe Gowda W/o Late. N.Jayaram,** R/at No.38, Rachenahalli, Dr. Shivaramakaranth Nagara Post, Bengaluru-560077, **Now hereby declares that she is revoking GPA** dated 13.12.2021 sworn before PRAKASHA .C Notary & Advocate and on the strength of which a suit has been filed before The City Civil and Sessions Judge, in O.S.No.26553/2022 (CCH-21). That now our client above-named has revoked the said GPA by her letter dated 15.04.2023 communicated to the ATTORNEYS Mrs. Shoba and Mrs. Geetha who are plaintiffs in the above case.

If any Person/s entering into any kind of contract/s, transaction/s, compromise petitions before court of law, and court cases, and/or any kind of documentations of whatsoever nature over the schedule properties mentioned below & which are the subject matters of above suit is/are hereby required to intimate in writing, to the undersigned within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their rights, interest, share, demand and, or, claim, if any, with all supporting documents and proofs, failing which any future transaction / transfer with respect to the Said Properties shall be done without reference to such claim and all claims, if any, will not be binding on our client and the same shall be treated as abandoned, surrendered, relinquished, released, completely waived and not enforceable/binding on our Client.

SCHEDULED PROPERTY

1. Item No.1: ALL THAT piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing survey **No. 83/1 admeasuring 2 acres 37 guntas** situated at Rachenahalli village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, (earlier Bangalore South Tq), Bangalore and bounded on the: **East by:** Property survey No.85, **West by:** Property bearing survey No. 79, **North by:** Raja kaluve; and **South by:** Property bearing Survery No.86,

2. Item No.2: ALL THAT piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing survey No. 81/3A admeasuring 3 acres 1 gunta situated at Rachenahalli village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, (earlier Bangalore South Tq), Bangalore and bounded on the: **East by:** Property belong to Dasappa; **West by:** Property belonging to L. Narayanaswamy, **North by:** Property belonging to Mukunda, Narayanaswamy and Gopalappa, **South by:** Property belonging to Shesachari.

3. Item No.3: ALL THAT piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing survey No. 54/2 admeasuring 30guntas situated at Rachenahalli village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, (earlier Bangalore South Tq), Bangalore and bounded on the: **East by:** Property bearing Survey No.79, **West by:** Property bearing Survey No.53, **North by:** Raja Kaluve and **South by:** Property No.55.

4. Item No.4: ALL THAT piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing survey No. 55/1 admeasuring 25 guntas situated at Rachenahalli village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, (earlier Bangalore South Tq), Bangalore and bounded on the: **East by:** Property bearing Survey No.56, **West by:** Property bearing Survey No.78, **North by:** Property bearing Survey No.54. **South by:** Raja Kaluve.

5. Schedule-B Property of O.S.No.26553/2022 ie all that piece and parcel of Survey No. 81/3A measuring 20 guntas situated at Rachenahalli Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, (earlier Bangalore South Tq), Bangalore and bounded on the: **East by:** Road and remaining portion of Same Survey No, **West by:** Long Holla, **North by:** Portion of same Sy.No, **South by:** Survey No. 80.

Spandana Reddy & T R Sunil Kumar
Advocates & Consultants
T R SUNIL KUMAR LAW ASSOCIATES
No.14, ASVNV CENTENARY BHAVAN, Behind Vishnu Grand Hotel, KG ROAD Bangalore 560009.
Ph: 9742091222 / 8150843057
Email: **spandanaadv@gmail.com / sunilk787@gmail.com**

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IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Repco Home Finance

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED
CORPORATE OFFICE: Alexander Square, 3rd Floor, No.2 (Old No. 34 & 35), Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032. Phone No.044-42106650; Fax: 044-42106651

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas the undersigned being **Authorised Officer** of **Repco Home Finance Limited** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice on the dates mentioned below, calling upon them** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower, Co-Borrowers and the Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Co-Borrowers, Guarantor and the public in general that **the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below** in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this the **11th day of April 2023**

The Borrower, Co-Borrowers, Guarantor and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Repco Home Finance Limited, Following Branches for an amount and interest thereon mentioned below against each account.**

We draw your attentions to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at anytime before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured asset.

Sl.No.1:- (Peenya Branch) - Borrower: Mr.B.Dileep, S/o.Brahamaiah, No.2,Sai Nilaya BK Layout,2nd Cross, Kodigehalli Main Road, Bangalore-560097. **Also at:** En Graphics INC No.14/43-4 near Canara Bank, Tumkur Road, Bangalore-560002. **Also at:** Plot No.46,Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560064. **Co-Borrower: Mrs. Sneha Chandran,** W/o.Dileep, No.2,Sai Nilaya BK Layout,2nd Cross, Kodigehalli Main Road, Bangalore-560097. **Also at: Aster CMI Hospital**, No.43/2,New Airport Road, Sahakar Nagar, Bengaluru-560092.Also at, Plot No.46,Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560064.Guarantor: Mr.M.R.Shreyas, S/o.M.S.Ravindra, No.20,6th cross, 8th Main,thindlu main Road, Sapthagiri layout, Vidayaranya Post, bangalore-560097. Also at, Just Signs Pvt Ltd, No.14/43-4 near Canara Bank, Tumkur Road, Bangalore-560002

Demand Notice Date: 10-10-2022. Amount claimed as per Demand Notice **(Account No.2121890000382)** being **Rs.15,54,601/-** respectively with further interest from **09-11-2022** onwards and other costs thereon; **Amount Outstanding: Rs.16,63,365/-** respectively with further interest from **10-04-2023** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of immovable property being Southern Portion of Site No.46, Khatha No.110/9A/46 situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). MEASURING: East to West: 20 Feet;North to South: 30 Feet; Totally **Measuring :** 600 Sq. Feet. and **BOUNDED ON:** East by : Road; West by : Site No.37; North by : Remaining Portion of same Site No.46;South by : Site No.45.

Sl.No.2:- (Peenya Branch) - Borrower: Mr . M.R. Shreyas, S/o .M.S.Ravindra,, No.20,6th cross, 8th Main, Thindlu Main Road, Sapthagiri layout, Vidayaranya Post, Bangalore - 560097. **Also at:** Just Signs Pvt Ltd, No.14/43-4 near Canara Bank, Tumkur Road, Bangalore-560002. **Also at:** Northern Portion of Plot No.46, Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560064. **Co-Borrower : Mrs.S.L.Shruthi**, W/o.Shreyas, No.20,6th Cross, 8th Main, thindlu Main Road, Sapthagiri Layout, Vidayaranya Post, Bangalore-560097. **Also at: Northern Portion of Plot,** No.46, Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560064. **Guarantor: Mr. B.Dileep,** S/o.Brahamaiah, No.2, Sai Nilaya BK Layout, 2nd Cross, Kodigehalli Main Road, Bangalore-560097. **Also at: En Graphics INC,** No.14/43-4 Near Canara Bank, Tumkur Road, Bangalore-560002.

Demand Notice Date: 10-11-2022. Amount claimed as per Demand Notice **(Account No.2121890000339)** being **Rs.8,90,733/-** respectively with further interest from **09-11-2022** onwards and other costs thereon; **Amount Outstanding: Rs.9,58,291/-** with further interest from **10-04-2023** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of immovable property in Northern Portion of Site No.46, Khatha No.110/9A/46 situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). MEASURING: East to West: 20 Feet;North to South: 30 Feet;Totally Measuring : 600 Sq. Feet. and **BOUNDED** :East by :Road; West by : Site No.37;North by : Site No.47;South by : Remaining Portion of same Site No.46

Sl.No.3:- (Yelanhanka Branch) - Borrower: Mr. N.C.Joyappa, S/o. Mr. Kariyappa Naik No.54, 8th Main Road Hosapalya Garvebhavipalya Bangalore - 560068. **Also at:** State Bank of India Jayanagar 2nd Block 40/2, Pattalamma Temple Road, South end Circle Banglore – 560004 **Co Borrower -I: Mrs. J.Sujatha,** W/o. Mr. N.C.Joyappa No.54, 8th, Main Road Hosapalya Garvebhavipalya Bangalore- 560068. **Co Borrower II : Mr. Kavan.N.J,** S/o. Mr. N.C.Joyappa, No.54, 8th Main Road Hosapalya Garvebhavipalya Bangalore- 560068.

Demand Notice Date: 05-11-2022. Amount claimed as per Demand Notice **(Account No.1341820002711)** being **Rs.43,777,26/-** respectively with further interest from **04-11-2022** onwards and other costs thereon; **Amount Outstanding: Rs.44,42,245/-** with further interest from **10-04-2023** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.44, Khatha No.111, Situated at Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring: East to West: 40 Feet and North to South : 30 Feet, Totally Measuring: 1200 Sq Feet, now comes under the limits of BBMP. And **Bounded On:** East By: Road, West By: Site No.28, North By: Site No.43, South By: Site No.45, Within the Sub - Registration District of Jayanagar.

Sl.No.4:- (Bangalore Branch) - Borrower: Mr. Bekkam Obulesh, S/o. Beekam Obaiah, No. 27, Katha No. 959, Narayanapura Main Road, K.R. Puram, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk,Bangalore - 560 036. **Co-Borrower –II: Mrs. R. Lakshmi ,** W/o, Beekam Ramaiah, No . 27, Katha No . 959, Narayanapura Main Road, K.R. Puram, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore - 560 036. Co-Borrower - III: Mrs. M.V. Vakula , W/o, Bekkam Obulesh, No. 27, Katha No. 959, Narayanapura Main Road, K.R. Puram, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore - 560 036. **Guarantor: Mr. Venkatesh,** No. 694, Domlur Layout, Venkateshwara Temple, Domlur, Bangalore - 560 071.

Demand Notice Date: 24-11-2022. Amount claimed as per Demand Notice **(Account No.Nos.1121860003068 & 1121860003190)** being **Rs.68,23,829/- & Rs.3,20,703/-** respectively with further interest from **06-05-2022** onwards and other costs thereon; **Amount Outstanding: Rs.69,65,870/- & Rs.3,12,430/-** with further interest from **23-11-2022** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site bearing House List No. 27, Katha No. 959, of Narayanapura Main Road, KR Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore - 560 036 with building constructed thereon and measuring: East to West:20 feet, North to South : 45 Feet, Total = 20 x 45 = 900 Sq.ft., and bounded on: East by: Remaining Portion of same House List No. 27 belongs to Jayaram, West by :Remaining Portion of same House List No. 27 belongs to Jayashankar , North by : 20 feet Road, South by : House No. 19.

Date :11-04-2023

Authorised Officer,
Repco Home Finance Ltd.

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Head Office: Level -3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051; **Tel:** 022 4241 0400, 022 4060 3100 ; **Website:** http://www.shriramhousing.in
Registered Off: Office No.123, Angappa Naicken Street, Chennai-600 001;
Branch Office: No. 96, R B Manor, 20th Main Road, Rajajinagar 2nd block, Bangalore – 560010

APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to The Shriram Housing Finance Limited, The Physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Shriram Housing Finance Limited, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis in e-auction on 25.05.2023 between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** for recovery of the balance due to "The Shriram Housing Finance Limited" from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and earnest money deposit & increment are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Description of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Earnest Money Deposit Details (EMD) Details.	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person and Inspection date
1. MR. RATHNAIH S/O Marappa R/at: No. 105/4, 1st Cross, I Main Road, S R Compound, Arekere Gate, B G Road, Behind BPL Factory, Bangalore – 560 076 **Also at: Sridevi Consumer Housing Society, #7/8,3rd Main Road, Marenahalli, Jayanagar, 5th Block, Bangalore – 560 071** **2. MRS. ANNAPOORNA DEEPIKA S L W/O Rathnaiah, R/at: No. 105/4, 1st Cross, I Main Road, S R Compound, Arekere Gate, B G Road, Behind BPL Factory, Bangalore-560076** **Date of Possession & Possession Type** **8th March 2023 Physical Possession** **Encumbrances known** Not Known	Rs. 1,23,59,778/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SLPHBGLR0000919 as on 21.05.2022 and Rs. 26,61,540/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Sixty One Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SLPHBGLR0001289 as on 18.05.2022 with further interest and other costs, charges and expenses. Notice Date: 21-05-2022	**All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 4, Khatha No.341/105/4, Property No. 105/4, Khatha No. 105, Situated at 1st Cross, S.R. Compound, Arekere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, presently comes under the jurisdictional of BBMP Ward No. 193 – Arakere, Bangalore, measuring East to West (65+58)/2 ft. and North to South 30 ft. totally measuring 1,845 Sq. ft and bounded on:** **East by: Private Property.** **West by: Road.** **North by: Site No. 3.** **South by: Site No. 5.**	Rs.2,52,99,753/- (Rupees Two Crores Fifty Two Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Three Only) Bid Increment: Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs.)** Rs. 25,29,975/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Five Only) **Last date for submission of EMD : 22-05-2023 between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**	EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/ NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: **BANK NAME-** AXIS BANK LIMITED **BRANCH-** BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI **BANK ACCOUNT NO-** Current Account No. 911020045677633 **IFSC CODE-** UTIB0000230	**25th May 2023** **Time: 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.**	**Customer care: 022 -40081572** **Prashanth +91 9035211772** **Manjunath K +91 9845407976** **Property Inspection Date: 10th May 2023 Time 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link http://shriramhousing.in/e-auction-Residential provided in the Shriram Housing Finance Limited website.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 17-04-2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Shriram Housing Finance Limited

₹8,767 cr have been invested in Indian equities by foreign portfolio investors so far this month on the reasonable stocks' valuation.

UPI credit line facility: Taking digital lending to next level

This new facility will enhance the accessibility of credit to customers, and will also help MSMEs in obtaining credit in a hassle-free manner

MONIKA YADAV @New Delhi

WITH each advancement in technology, it gets better in accessing the best of services in all spheres of life, be it banking, travel, education or health, among others. The innovation of the unified payments interface (UPI) has been a game-changer in the banking space. UPI has helped the country take last mile banking services to the remotest of places and to the lowest strata of people.

The numbers tell the whole picture. According to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), transactions on the UPI platform grew by 60% year-on-year in March to a record 8.7 billion. In terms of value, payments on the platform surged 46% year-on-year to ₹14.05 trillion.

The UPI is now all set to take the next big leap – making loans available to customers. The recent Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) announcement to allow pre-sanctioned credit lines for the users through UPI may revolutionise credit disbursal in the country and render the incumbent ways of borrowing redundant.

Loan through UPI

So, what is the bank-approved credit line via UPI? This is a pre-approved borrowing limit that a borrower can avail at any time. It is more or less like a credit card payment, under which, a user can make the repayment of loan with interest at a later date. To get this facility, the users of UPI will have to apply to the banks. There are many benefits of borrowing through UPI credit lines, as it is more flexible and there is no need to carry a physical card. In addition to this, there is also no requirement of POS or swipe machines to facilitate credit transactions.

"We have been making a lot of announcements relating to UPI in past policies. UPI's robustness has been leveraged to develop new products and features from time to time," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said recently while announcing this new measure.

The different kinds of pre-sanctioned credit lines under the RBI's new system include credit card, small credit line, business credit line, etc. It's up to the banks to decide on the limit of each line of credit on the basis of their due diligence of borrowers like income, credit score, borrowing history etc.

According to Dilip Modi, Founder, Spice Money, this development will significantly enhance the convenience and accessibility of credit to customers and will help in driving financial inclusion to the last mile in Bharat.

"UPI has enabled millions of people to conduct transactions and access services with ease and its impact is felt not only in urban but also in rural areas. We look forward to leveraging this initiative to create innovative solutions that will further empower our customers and help them achieve their financial goals," Modi said.

Credit line vs traditional loan

Unlike traditional loans, credit lines are revolving (unsecured) loans where one has continuous access to a certain credit limit till the credit line is open. It is more like credit cards, where one can access a limited amount of loan if the borrower pays the interest and principal on a regular basis.

In traditional loan, one can avail a certain amount of loan for a limited period within which the borrower has to repay the interest and principal amount.But before availing a credit line facility, one must know that interest in credit lines is higher than that of traditional loan.

Sugandh Saxena, CEO, Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment said, "Credit-line access on the UPI network is a significant step, for it will facilitate customers' access to affordable, need-based and reliable sources of credit. It will also bring competition and innovation for customer-centric credit products."

However, she says, as choices expand and become complex, it must be ensured that customer protection safeguards in digital lending guidelines, including disclosures, data privacy, and cooling-off period etc, apply for customers to make informed and right decisions.

MSMEs, small traders to gain

The new facility will allow easier access to MSMEs, small traders and professionals access credit through banks. They can access collateral-free instant loans based through UPI. Not only can one access credit through this system, one can also make repayment through UPI. According to an SBI Ecowrap report, this move will help SMEs in accessing credit in a hassle-free manner. It will help in bridging the gap of ₹20-25 lakh crore in the credit system for MSMEs.

All under UPI ambit

Transactions on the UPI platform rose 60% Y-o-Y in March to a record **8.7 billion**

PAYMENTS ON THE PLATFORM SURGED 46% Y-O-Y TO **₹14.05 L cr**

Recently, RuPay credit cards were permitted to be linked to UPI

NPCI recently notified 1.1% interchange fee on UPI payments via prepaid instruments

UPI credit line facility will help in bridging the gap of **₹20-25 L crore** in the credit system for MSMEs

Interest higher than traditional loan

In traditional loan, one can avail a certain amount of loan for a limited period within which the borrower has to repay the interest and principal amount. But before availing a credit line facility, one must know that interest in credit lines is higher than that of traditional loan.

MONEY MATTERS

WHEN CAN YOU TAKE RISKS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

STOCK market investing and trading are fraught with risks. Before you learn to take risks, you must learn to know about them.

While investing, you face systemic and market risks due to human biases. Systemic risks are associated with the stock market or the banking system. Stock markets are expected to ensure the safety of the trading settlement cycle. That means buyers must get shares in their demat account on the settlement day, and sellers must get the money. If a stock market or the banking system is hacked, that can disrupt the settlement cycle. It is an example of systemic risk.

The guaranteed settlement does not mean guaranteed returns. You still face other risks like those associated with the financials of companies you buy or sell shares into directly or through mutual funds. Your mutual fund could be poorly managed, or you may buy at a time when share prices are at their peak. Even your fixed-income investments face an interest rate risk. If inflation rises in an economy, you have to pay more for loans. You must also switch from low-return fixed-income assets to those offering a higher revised interest rate. These are some market risks.

The third type of risk associated with your investment is biases. These are associated with human behaviour. You may follow recently occurred events to determine future investments. A loss incurred in the past could stop you from making smart investments in the future. Another example of a human bias is herd mentality. You could join the chorus of people who insist on investing in a particular company based on rumours. Company fundamentals matter to your investment in the stock market.

Indian households are, by and large, risk-averse. That is reflected in the relatively low participation in the stock market directly or indirectly through mutual funds. While in rich countries, every other individual is a mutual fund owner and every third a stock investor, that percentage is barely scratching the surface in India.

Yet, there are many instances when many end up buying into assets they are unaware of. Cryptocurrencies and related assets are an example. People flush with surplus cash rushed to buy crypto assets at the cycle's peak. They ended up burning their fingers. Something similar happens when you get attracted to the news about stock market rallies. Retail investors are usually the last to participate in a stock market rally. They buy equity assets at the peak of the stock market cycle. As that market cycle turns, first-timers make a loss, and they decide to stay out of the investing or the trading game.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Build a diverse portfolio

If you are young, you can determine a portion of your income as risk money. That does not mean you buy crypto assets or real estate in places where you cannot travel often. You can invest that into equity assets and build a diverse portfolio.

When to take risks

Risk appetite is your ability to withstand a loss. You can take a risk if you are sure of your future income. If you know that you are likely to do better in life and earn more, you are in a better position to take the risk. Your age is not a problem if you know about your guaranteed income through rent or savings. That does not mean you should bet your retirement savings on investing in the stock market. If you are likely to settle on a pension lower than your last payment, you must use your savings through provident and pension funds to buy an annuity plan.

If you are young, you can determine a portion of your income as risk money. That does not mean you buy crypto assets or real estate in places where you cannot travel often. You can invest that into equity assets and build a diverse portfolio. As stock markets go through multiple cycles, you can ride through them to create steady wealth. Diversification allows you to mitigate risks.

Importance of knowledge

The other way to lower the risk element in your investments is by gaining knowledge. There is nothing like being aware. If you are an investor and wish to remain one, you must give yourself daily time to gather knowledge. Spending a few minutes understanding factors that influence your investments can only help you build confidence and minimise the impact of market cycles.

MONEY-WISE

TIPS, MARKET FOES AND WOES

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com (Views expressed here are personal)

RECENTLY, a senior citizen in our neighborhood complained about an unbearably high decibel sound from an adjoining house. Contrary to the belief that it was high decibel music that was contributing to the discomfort, it turned out that the accused was merely watching a prime time news debate and that too without the volume bar cranked up.

The cacophony that is sought to be passed off as news and debate on Television and the amount of misinformation that can be passed through a high decibel pitch is a phenomenon meriting a psychological study. I thus prefer to read rather than watch news online as it gives me the opportunity to select what I wish to read at any given point in time.

A few months ago, I was amazed to find a clearly sponsored company feature passing off as an 'analysis' where the promoter and the company as well as its financial performance was extolled and hold your breath, projections made about over 100% growth in not only its profitability but also share price.

Though unaware of the merits of the case, I recently read of some regulatory action on a couple of celebrities and also an alert put out by one of the stock exchanges about a couple of persons who were hoodwinking gullible investors to part with their money on the assurance of guaranteed returns.

Friends, professional acquaintances and even patrons at times forward opinions of self-appointed market experts on mobile phone groups and at times even reports from 'reputed' brokerage houses suggesting the possibility of raking in abnormal returns. This, to my mind, is the most basic of mistakes investors make, led on by those preying on their naivety and greed.

A recent directive of the regulator has been to ask certain entities registered with it to affix its logo, address and even a line on investments being subject to market risk in all its market communications. Well, I may be wrong but unless the intent was something else altogether, my hunch is that the majority of the 'operators' (most polite word that can be used for such predators) mentioned above are unregistered fly by night operators who shed old and assume new identities rapidly. Hence, further regulating the already regulated and also largely compliant, while these operators continue to remain unregulated and unfettered, would be akin to missing the woods for the trees.

Without getting into the relative impossibility of monitoring the proliferation of blatantly loaded messages by such fly- by-night operators, it would suffice to say that this is a menace that shows no sign of abating. To be fair to the regulator though, it cannot let the impossibility of the situation grow in scale and has to keep making efforts to blunt such predators.

On our part, we repeatedly remind anyone who bothers to ask, that if only the art of investing was so easy that one could act on such pearls of wisdom (of which there is no dearth, courtesy the hyper active social media) and profit, then everyone ought to be doubling their wealth monthly. Alas, that must remain a pipe dream.

Hence, all we can do is once again remind investors of the Latin phrase, Caveat Emptor

– Let the Buyer Beware.

India could continue to buy Russian crude: FM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that India could explore buying Russian crude oil past the price cap imposed by the G-7. Sitharaman told an international wire service in Washington that India has a large population and therefore have to look at prices that are going to be affordable for the country.

The South Asian nation needs to constantly look for the best deal since it imports almost 80% of its crude oil requirements. "For us, it is a very critical input for the economy," she added.

The impact on fuel prices of OPEC+'s output cut and the spillover of all the decisions related to Russia's war in Ukraine are "the two main things which I think I'd be more worried about than anything internal," she said.

Earlier, Indian officials had said that the country was unlikely to breach sanctions on Russia including the price cap. On these sanctions, she said, "I think we should look at it more with humanity in mind. I hope the intent is not to hurt economies which have nothing to do with the war."

She added that unintended consequences of these measures should not be borne by the global south. She also said possible recessions in the US or other developed countries could be a drag on India by hurting exports, particularly manufacturing.

FM said some countries can begin to somewhat decouple from the Federal Reserve, which has led the global drive to hike interest rates to curb inflation. A pause in tightening can help growth momentum in certain countries, which can respond to their economic challenges with a bit more sense of what is most suitable for them, she added.

Delivery agents strike might shut over 100 dark stores in Delhi-NCR

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

CONSUMERS in many parts of Delhi-NCR continue to face difficulty in placing their orders on the food delivery app Blinkit as more than half of its 200 dark stores in the region are facing a shutdown.

The shutdown, which started a few days back after the Zomato-owned company came out with a revised payment structure for its delivery agents, is expected to intensify and more stores are expected to go offline as agents feel the decision to cut down their earnings is arbitrary.

According to Blinkit's revised payment structure, delivery partners will now receive a minimum fee of ₹15 per delivery (with a distance-based fee component being introduced), instead of ₹25 per delivery. Delivery executives are on strike against this new pay structure. "A year back we signed up with Blinkit as they were giving ₹50 per order. It was soon changed to ₹25 per order. It is now reduced further to ₹15. The new payment structure will cut our daily earnings by 40-50%," said a delivery partner at Blinkit. He added that the company has started suspending delivery agents who are participating in the strike.

"We are not treated like employees or workers of the company," said another delivery agent at Blinkit.

Meanwhile, a browse on the app shows that services are 'temporarily unavailable' in the Delhi-NCR region. While replying to a user on Twitter, Blinkit, said that they are undergoing maintenance. "We understand the hassle this must be causing you. Our teams are working on fixing this at the earliest, and we'll be back very soon to serve you again," said the Blinkit Twitter handle.

Blinkit operates approximately 400 dark stores in 20 cities throughout the country. Around 200 of these dark stores are present in the Delhi-NCR region. Food delivery platform Zomato had last year acquired Blink (formerly known as Grofers) in a share swap deal.

Services are temporarily unavailable in Delhi-NCR

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US is India's biggest trading partner in FY23

PTI @ New Delhi

THE US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23 on account of increasing economic ties between the two countries.

According to the provisional data of the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and the US has increased by 7.65% to $128.55 billion in 2022-23 as against $119.5 billion in 2021-22. It was $80.51 billion in 2020-21.

Exports to the US rose by 2.81% to $78.31 billion in 2022-23 as against $76.18 billion in 2021-22, while imports grew by about 16% to $50.24 billion, the data showed. On the other hand, during 2022-23, India's two-way commerce with China declined by about 1.5%to $113.83 billion as against $115.42 billion in 2021-22. Exports to China dipped by about 28%to $15.32 billion in 2022-23, while imports rose by 4.16%to $98.51 billion in the last fiscal.

Experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the US will continue in the coming years also as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in further strengthening the economic ties. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President A Sakthivel said that increasing exports of goods such as pharmaceutical, engineering and gems and jewellery is helping India to push its shipments to America. "The trend of increasing trade with the US will continue in the coming months also," he said.

Economic ties between US and India

The bilateral trade between India and the US has increased by 7.65% to $128.55 in 2022-23 as against $119.5 billion in 2021-22. Experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the US will continue in the coming years also as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in further strengthening the economic ties.

Rublev wins first Masters 1000 title

Russia's Andrey Rublev fought back against Denmark's Holger Rune to win his first Masters 1000 title in Monte Carlo on Sunday. The fifth seed rallied from 4-1 down in the deciding set to defeat sixth-seeded teenager Rune 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 after one hour 34 minutes on the red clay of Court Rainier III.

THIS YEAR WILL BE BETTER, SAYS NEERAJ

Ahead of the season opener in Doha, the Tokyo Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower is confident of having a good 2023

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

SPORT is not always about hard work and perseverance. It is also about learning from mistakes, acknowledging shortcomings and striving to do better. There is no better example than Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra. In 2021, after the Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold, he took a break from the sport, a little longer than usual. Having put on some weight, getting back into full fitness took time and was forced to enter competitions late. Later during an interaction with this daily he had said, he would not want to repeat it.

New season, Neeraj started his training early (around December last year). He was watchful with his diet to maintain weight. Hard work during training and proper planning, and now he is ready for his first competition – the Diamond League in Doha on May 5. Last year, he started his competition Paavo Nurmi Games on June 14. He said as much when he took time off his training to interact with the media from Antalya, Turkey, on Sunday. "Last time we started training late and because of that it took a little longer to enter competition but this time we started early and now ready and training, too, has been good," he said.

However, this year being a cramped season that would last until the Asian Games in September-October with World Championships in August, Neeraj and his team would pick and choose competitions much more carefully. "This year is going to be long and we have to identify which are the main competitions," he said. "We will sit down with the coach (Klaus Bartonietz) and the physio (Ishan Marwah) and list those out. We will focus on the main competitions. World championships will be the primary focus but we will see which Diamond Leagues and Continental Tours we will focus on so that there is enough time to recover and train. Focus is to do better than what we did last and the training too has been keeping that in mind," he said.

(Top) Neeraj Chopra. Chopra with his coach Klaus Bartonietz | AFP

The First competition of the season will have some established names like world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, former Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago and Jakub Vadlejch (Olympic silver medallist). All of them have thrown above 90m as personal bests. Neeraj, however, is not perturbed. "It's good that some big names are entering the competition. It motivates you further to do well and these Diamond Leagues are for points but the final Diamond League will be important where you win the trophy. These DLs are also important because they give you points so the target is to do well and training has been good and I am feeling quite motivated to do well. Technically and mentally I am feeling fine."

As competition approaches, Neeraj is getting more and more focussed. "When competitions are far off then you don't think much about competitions but as they come closer you feel it. That's happening now. We get into competition mode once in the season. Training has been good. This year should be good as well." He also lauded coach Klaus's Training methods. "He is very good and I have been training with him for quite some time. He is good at training as well. He keeps that relationship between the player and others and he keeps a healthy atmosphere in the camp. Sometimes If we don't feel good, he motivates you and he doesn't put you under any kind of pressure. As far as training goes, we have not changed much in terms of technique. May be modified here and there, but nothing major."

Neeraj also emphasised the need to have a healthy relationship between a coach and an athlete. "It's important for the athlete to know what he is doing. An athlete should know his body and what kind of training is good and if it needs to be modified. It should not be that an athlete does what the coach tells him to do. Because it is an individual sport when we are on the ground we have to take care of everything. There the coach cannot help with the technique much. Because the mind is in a different plane altogether. That's why it is important to know our body and training. Sometimes when the coach makes a plan and I think we can do things differently, then we sit with the coach and talk and I give my opinion and if the coach thinks what I am saying is fine then we modify it. That understanding is very important when we can talk our mind freely with the coach."

As for the 90-m mark, he said, "like I had spoken earlier, I would want to put this to rest. Last year, I came very close (89.94m) but got injured. There is no pressure on crossing 90m, but yes I would want to do it this year. It is a magical figure and the 90-m club is exclusive. Hopefully, I will do it." Neeraj was happy to see athletes performing well at the Indian Grand Prix 4 in Bengaluru. He talked about javelin throwers like DP Manu's 84m-plus throws and Shaili Singh's long jump effort. He spoke about long jumper Eldhose Paul's record earlier. "It's heartening to see Indian athletes doing well," he said. "I think Indian athletics is on an upswing and good to see so many players doing well and those who are performing are all young and I am sure that we will be doing well at the world level."

Rinku spends lakhs to build hostel for struggling players

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

INDIAN Premier League (IPL) has produced many rags-to-riches stories over the years. Ever since its inception in 2008, the league has not only unearthed talents but also made them millionaires with its franchises splashing money on these budding cricketers.

However, it is difficult to come across a story where a youngster, who is yet to make his India debut, decides to give back to the sport which has changed his life forever. Rinku Singh, who plies his trade for Kolkata Knight Riders in the league, is going to set a benchmark in this regard.

The 25-year-old left-hand batter from Uttar Pradesh became the toast of the nation when he hit five consecutive sixes in the last over to fetch an improbable win for his team a few days back. Rinku might not be among the highest-earning cricketers of the IPL but that couldn't deter him from setting up a hostel for upcoming cricketers looking to make it big but somehow couldn't achieve their dreams due to financial constraints.

Hailing from a modest family wherein his father Khanchandra Singh used to deliver LPG cylinders and his brothers — Sonu (an auto-rickshaw driver) and Mukul (mopped floors at a coaching centre) — were forced to contribute to make the ends meet, life was not kind to Rinku in his initial years as a budding cricketer.

Given the hardships he faced, the all-rounder, who is also a right arm off break bowler, always wanted talented youngsters to have a smooth ride and his dream will turn into a reality when the hostel becomes operational next month. "He always wanted to build a hostel for young players, who do not have financial resources to pursue their dreams. As he is financially sound now, he has decided to make it a reality," Masooduz-Zafar Amini, Rinku's childhood coach from Aligarh, told this daily.

Rinku made his Ranji debut in 2016 and was picked by Kings XI Punjab the next year. The Kolkata franchise bought him for ₹80 lakh in 2018 and he has been playing for them since then.

Amini started training Rinku around 12-13 years ago and has witnessed his struggles and rise to fame. The coach now runs Aligarh Cricket School and Academy over 15-acre land owned by the district association. The hostel is coming up at the venue. "The work started around three months ago with Rinku watching the progress from close quarters before heading to join his team. The hostel will have 14 rooms and each one can accommodate four trainees. A shed and a pavilion are also being constructed. Separate toilets are also being constructed. These trainees can have food at the canteen being run at the place. It will cost around ₹50 lakh and the whole expenditure is being borne by Rinku," added the coach.

Rinku's eldest sibling, Sonu, who will look after the day-to-day affairs of the hostel, is happy that his brother's dream is finally coming true. "We delivered gas cylinders together when our father was not able to do that but we always wanted him to focus on cricket. The sacrifices we made bore fruits as he not only pulled us out of poverty but also decided to build a hostel for poor cricketers," Sonu told this daily.

The Academy, at present, has trainees hailing from nearby cities and living in rented houses. As most of them are from modest backgrounds, the hostel will help them to get accommodation at a minimal rate. "Around a dozen of our trainees will shift to the hostel. Presently, they pay hefty rent but here they can get rooms and food at a marginal cost. Besides, they don't have to waste time and money on travel as well," said the coach.

A small gymnasium is also being planned at the facility. "Almost 90 per cent of the work is done. It will get ready by next month. Rinku will inaugurate it once he is back from the IPL. Hopefully, this facility will make life easier for these youngsters," signed off the coach.

Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 185/6 in 20 ovs (Iyer 104, Russell 21, Rinku 18) **lost to** Mumbai Indians 186/5 in 17.4 ovs (Ishan 58, Suryakumar 43, Tilak 30).

The construction site of the hostel Rinku Singh is funding in Aligarh. (Below) Kolkata Knight Riders star Rinku with his coach Masooduz-Zafar Amini

EXPRESS READ

Shooting: Railways' Pankaj upstages Tomar

BHOPAL: Railways' Pankaj Mukheja won his second match in two days, emerging victorious in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the national selection trials after getter the better of Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar here. He had won the T3 (third) trials of the same event on Saturday. In the T4 gold medal match, Pankaj overcame local favourite Tomar 16-12 to come out on top. Mehuli Ghosh, representing ONGC, won the women's 10m air rifle T4 trials with a 17-9 result over her former state-mate Swarnali Roy of West Bengal. Rajasthan's Bhavesh Shekhawat claimed the men's 25m rapid fire pistol T4 trials.

Austria enter final of Billie Jean King Cup

FLORIDA: Jessica Pegula sent the U.S. into the Billie Jean King Cup finals, where the Americans will have the chance to extend their record for most titles. Pegula and Coco Gauff both won twice in a 4-0 victory over Austria in Delray Beach, Florida. Pegula clinched the best-of-five tie for the Americans with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Austria's Julia Grabher on Saturday. The victory gave the Americans a 3-0 lead and Gauff followed by reuniting with former partner Caty McNally to beat Sinja Kraus and Melanie Klaffner 6-1, 6-4. Pegula also won her singles match Friday after No 6 Gauff, playing in her hometown, beat Grabher in the opener.

Lahiri shoots 8-under, finishes 2nd in Vietnam

CAM RANH (VIETNAM): India's Anirban Lahiri produced the day's best round of bogey free 8-under that almost brought him his first win in eight years on the Asian Tour here on Sunday. Lahiri, 10-under overnight, set the target at 18-under and then waited for those following him to finish. He ended second. Kieran Vincent of Zimbabwe, in just his second year as a professional, holed a decisive 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to beat Lahiri and Australian Kevin Yuan by one stroke. Kieran Vincent's brother Scott won the International Series England last year. The 25-year-old Kieran won $360,000.

BCCI hikes domestic events prize money

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AHEAD of the 2023-24 season, the BCCI has announced a hike in the prize money for the domestic tournaments. The biggest prize money will be for the Ranji Trophy winners, who will be getting ₹5 crore this upcoming season in comparison with the ₹2 crore they were getting while the runner-ups and the semi-finalists will be receiving ₹3 crore and ₹1 crore, respectively.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah took to Twitter to make the announcement on Sunday evening. "I'm pleased to announce an increase in prize money for all @BCCI Domestic Tournaments," he tweeted.

The women's tournaments, too, will see a long overdue raise in the prize money as the senior women's one-dayers winners will get ₹50 lakh. Earlier, they were getting ₹6 lakhs. The runner-ups will get ₹25 lakh. Similarly, the senior women's T20 winners will get ₹40 lakh, an eight-times increase from the ₹5 lakh they were getting and the runner-ups will get half of it.

"We will continue our efforts to invest in Domestic Cricket – which is the backbone of Indian Cricket. Ranji winners to get ₹5 crores (from 2 cr), Sr Women winners 50 lacs (from 6 lacs)," Shah added.

The prize money for Irani Cup has been increased from ₹25 lakh to ₹50 lakh while the team that comes second will get ₹25 lakh. Vijay Hazare Trophy and Duleep Trophy winners and runner-ups will get ₹1 crore and ₹50 lakh, respectively. Meanwhile, Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy champions will receive ₹80 lakhs while the other finalist will get half of it. The Deodhar Trophy winners will get ₹40 lakh and runner-ups will receive ₹20 lakh.

SOUTHERN DERBY

Two high-profile teams from South India, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings, take on each other. A look...

THEEKSHANA VS RCB OPENERS

Both Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis have been in top form, but it is no secret that they could be suspectable against spin early on. And on Monday, Maheesh Theekshana could pose a threat to them at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

INJURY-RIDDEN SUPER KINGS

Since the start of the season, CSK has had at least five players suffer injuries and miss games, with some of them ruled out for a while. Low on resources, they will be looking at the senior pros to step up, especially in the batting department.

EYE ON CHENNAI SOUTHPAWS

When asked about sending three southpaws in middle-overs, CSK head coach Stephen Fleming said that they would stick to the defined roles and would not want to shuffle too much. Shivam Dube, Mooen Ali and Ravindra Jadeja could have a field day against RCB given the venue and the bowling attack they have.

140.67 MS Dhoni has scored more runs against RCB than any other team in IPL striking at 140.67

20 Ruturaj Gaikwad averages only 20 against left-arm pacers in IPL

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Chennai Super Kings, 7.30 PM, Bengaluru

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIO CINEMA

Royal finish from Hetmyer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

SHIMRON Hetmyer smashed an unbeaten 56 off 26 balls to take Rajasthan Royals home against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Sanju Samson (32-ball 60), Dhruv Jurel (17 off 19), and R Ashwin (10 off 3) set up the chase as RR went past the target in the final over with three wickets and four balls to spare. Earlier, Shubman Gill (34-ball 45) and David Miller (46 off 30) helped Titans finish with 177/7. **Brief scores:** GT 177/7 in 20 ovs (Miller 46, Gill 45, Manohar 27; Sharma 2/22) **lost to** RR 179/7 in 19.2 ovs (Samson 60, Hetmyer 56 n.o).

FOOTBALL

Arsenal blow lead again in EPL

AFP @ London

ARSENAL blew a two-goal lead for the second game in a row as Bukayo Saka's penalty miss proved crucial in the Premier League leaders' damaging 2-2 draw against West Ham on Sunday. Mikel Arteta's side struck twice in the first 10 minutes at the London Stadium thanks to goals from Gabriel Jesus and Martin Odegaard.

But just seven days after squandering a 2-0 advantage in their 2-2 draw at Liverpool, the Gunners again cracked under the pressure of the title race.

Said Benrahma's penalty reduced the deficit for West Ham before the interval and after Saka fired his spot-kick wide early in the second half, Jarrod Bowen volleyed in an equaliser for the struggling hosts.

It was a hammer blow for Arsenal, who sit four points clear of second-placed Manchester City but have ceded the title race momentum to Pep Guardiola's team. **Other result:** Nottingham Forest 0-2 Man United.

Arsenal's Bukayo Saka reacts after missing a penalty kick on Sunday | AP

EPL TITLE RACE

CLUB	M	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Arsenal	31	23	5	3	43	74
Man City	30	22	4	4	50	70

City have a game in hand and the two sides face each other on April 27

Barcelona held

GETAFE: A subdued Barcelona could not break down Getafe in a 0-0 draw on Sunday, dropping more points but still sitting 11 clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga. Meanwhile, the loss to Real saw Barcelona's lead, and with nine games remaining it seems highly unlikely they will catch Barcelona.

No Singh in WFI polls, wrestlers to wait for report

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

AS was reported by this daily a few days ago, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Sunday announced its election schedule during the Emergency General Council and Executive Committee meetings held in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was sidelined by the sports ministry after top wrestlers of the country staged a protest against him in January, confirmed that he will not contest the election. However, he may still remain associated with the federation in a new role.

As per the schedule, the affiliated units have been asked to send the names of two voters from each association latest by April 26 to prepare the electoral college. As many as 27 units including Railway Sports Promotion Board and Services Sports Control Board are affiliated with the WFI. The two, however, do not have voting rights. Nominations can be filed on April 28 and 29 while the same can be withdrawn on May 3.

Singh has served three four-year terms as president in a row rendering him ineligible to contest for the top post as per the Sports Code. "We had to schedule elections earlier, but due to the recent controversy, we could not hold the polls then, but now we will move forward. I will follow the Sports Code and not contest for president's post," he was quoted as saying after the meeting. Singh also hinted that he may contest for another post to remain associated with the federation. His son, Karan, who is president of the Uttar Pradesh association, may contest for the president's post, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Tokyo Olympic and multiple World Championship medallist Bajrang Punia, who led the protest, said they will prefer to wait for the report of the oversight committee constituted to probe allegations including sexual harassment against Singh before chalking out future strategies. "We have full faith in the government that it will not let us down. We will wait for the report before finalising our future strategies. As far as elections are concerned, we can talk on it only after the report is out," Bajrang told this daily.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

The report carried by this daily on April 8 regarding WFI elections

WFI meetings on Apr 16, elections likely to be discussed
AUDIO CLIP DOING ROUNDS

NEET UG is one of the biggest entrance examinations in the country with many students vying for a limited number of seats. As the exam is barely three weeks away, experts point out what students should keep in mind while preparing for it

GEARING UP

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

SAUMYANGI YADAV

THE National Eligibility cum Entrance Test—Undergraduate (NEET-UG), India's biggest entrance examination is just around the corner. With more than 21 lakh applicants registering for the test and competing for just over one lakh MBBS seats in Indian medical colleges, the competition is indeed high.

The exam will be held on Sunday, May 7 from 2 pm to 5.20 pm in 499 cities across the country. With just three weeks until the examination, we bring you a few tips and strategies from industry experts, educationists and career guides.

Cut-off expected to be high

With three weeks remaining until D-Day, students need to focus on solving mock tests instead of studying new topics, experts say.

"Before the exam, the students need to solve at least five to ten mock test papers. If one is aiming for government colleges, they need to score at least 600 marks as the cut-off is expected to be high this year. One also needs to analyse the mock test scores and see which college one can get into," said medical education counsellor and Founder of Career Xpert, Gaurav Tyagi.

Experts added that solving mock papers can help the students with time management which is crucial for a good performance.

prep time

"By this time the students should have gone through multiple revisions of their syllabus. Now, it is high time that they begin with the revision tests for all three subjects. By doing so, the students' confidence level will increase and they will understand where the gaps are and how they can fill them. It is important for students to solve at least one mock paper every day in the last few weeks," said Dr Milind C, National Head, Knowledge Management & Academic Excellence, Deeksha Learning.

Impact of negative marking

As negative marking can make all the difference in one's rank, educationists suggest students should try their level best to avoid it.

"Many students lose almost 10-15 marks due to negative marking. They should be very careful about this," explained Jayaprakash Gandhi, career consultant and analyst.

For NEET-UG, the students are awarded four marks for each correct response, whereas, one mark is deducted for each wrong attempt.

"The students should first answer what they are confident about and then move on to the ones they are 75 per cent sure about. If you are attempting 150 questions and 50 questions are incorrect, then you lose 50 marks straight which will downgrade your rank by a lot," added Tyagi.

Don't underestimate Biology

"Students need to be very thorough with their biology preparation and should aim to score at least 320 to 350 to do well in the paper. I always suggest the students attempt Biology first," explained career consultant Jayaprakash Gandhi.

Biology contains the highest weightage out of all three subjects in NEET-UG. Out of 720 marks, 360 are allotted for the Biology section. As many as 90 questions appear in the Biology section of the paper, 45 each from Botany and Zoology.

"However, students often make silly mistakes in the Biology section as they think it is comparatively easier than Physics and Chemistry. There is a saying, 'What is easy to see is easy to miss'. That is why they should be very careful while attempting the Biology section as it is crucial," said Gandhi.

Do repeaters tend to have better luck with NEET UG?

One of the common concerns that many first-time test takers share is that they will be competing against a large number of repeaters for the MBBS seats. The number of repeaters in NEET-UG has increased over the years, making the examination even more challenging. However, the experts suggest that instead of focusing on the number of applicants or repeaters, the students should only focus on their individual preparation.

"If you note the track record, almost more than 60 per cent of the students getting into government medical colleges are repeaters. It happens because the freshers have to balance both Board exams and entrance test preparation but many of these students actually end up performing better as well. It all depends on how strong is your hold on basic concepts," added Jayaprakash Gandhi.

Experts stressed that students should focus on giving their individual best.

"They need to make sure that with every mock test that they attempt, they have some improvement of at least five to ten marks. If they have this confidence, they will do well in the exams, irrespective of the number of applicants," Dr Milind from Deeksha Learning added.

Students, Math will always be indispensable

"Mathematical knowledge is very important for cracking the Physics section so the students should focus on that," explained Jayaprakash Gandhi and added, "I always tell the parents that Math is crucial for NEET aspirants too. A few students from Pure Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry) backgrounds might find the numerical portion a little more challenging. They should try to have a strong hold on their mathematical skills."

However, the experts also added that with good clarity of the basic concepts and mathematical skills, most students can manage to get a good score.

"One or two numerical questions might be a bit more challenging for students who did not have Math as a compulsory subject, but they can leave such questions. In fact, many such students opt for MBBS courses and even in college, the course does not require a very high level of mathematical skills," explained Dr SP Singh, MD, Head of the Department of Physiology at Amrita School of Medicine, Faridabad.

Don't over-exert yourself

One of the most important things is that the aspirants be in a good mental and physical state on the day of the exam, added industry experts.

Dr SP Singh said, "Before the exam, it is important that the student is well-rested and in a good physical state. So, you should try to take a half-hour walk every day in order to get some physical exercise and proper sleep as well. Do not pressurise yourself too much and only focus on mock tests during the last days."

NEET UG CUT-OFF PERCENTILE

PREVIOUS YEARS' CUT-OFFS

YEAR	General/UR/EWS	UR-PwD	SC/ST/OBC	SC/ST/OBC-PwD
2019	701-134	133-120	133-107	119-107
2020	720-147	146-129	146-113	128-113
2021	720-138	137-122	137-108	121-108
2022	715-117	116-105	116-93	104-93

Don't be anxious

"Meditation is something that helps with exam anxiety, especially guided meditation sessions that one can find easily on YouTube," says Prateek Jain

With registrations hitting an all time-high, exam now tougher to crack?

peak hit

Registrations are increasing every year. What do experts attribute this craze for medicine to?

NEET UG registrations have been rising drastically over the years, since its introduction in 2016. This year, over a whopping 21 lakh applications have been received by NTA, as opposed to 18,72,343 in 2022. This makes the already tough exam tougher to crack. Not to mention, the rising number of applicants implies the rising importance of the exam. The foremost reason, students and experts concur, is the craze for the medical profession. According to Gaurav Tyagi, an expert in NEET, the "doctor" tag is associated with money, power and prestige. However, other lesser-known factors contribute to the surge in registrations as well.

REASONS BEHIND THE RISE

1 LIFE-LONG SUSTENANCE
The fact that a doctor works independently and can earn money after a MBBS degree through private practice as well attracts a lot of people, the experts point out

2 SATURATION OF ENGG
With social pressure to choose between engineering or medical for science students, the saturation of jobs in the former field diverts more students towards the medical field

3 MORE TAKERS FOR SCIENCE
The number of students opting for science has risen in all states. "The number of students studying Biology has gone up too," career consultant Jayaprakash Gandhi points out

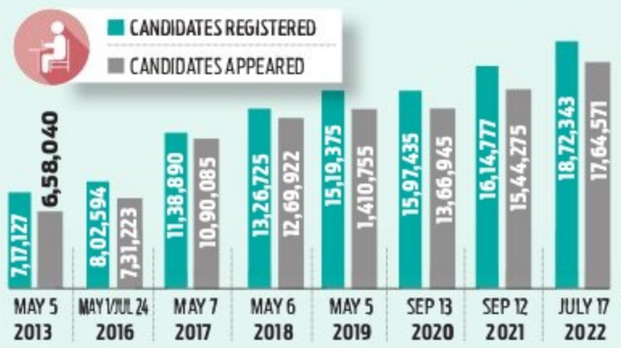
4 LACK OF AWARENESS: Class IX and X students are unaware of career options available after Science, Tyagi explains. Experts note a prevailing mentality that a choice has to be made between taking up a BSc course or attempting JEE or NEET hence, parents force children towards entrance tests

5 HYPE OF NEET EXAM
Activist Dr Vivek Pandey explains that the number of examinees has gone up since 2016 when AIPMT was replaced by NEET. The hype around NEET also compels students to attempt it

6 QUITE A FEW REPEATERS
Gandhi points out that because of COVID, the number of repeaters has increased. Plus, NEET being a tough exam automatically leads to the increase in number of repeaters

7 MORE INFRA ADDS TO MANIA
"The rise in number of seats due to an increase in number of medical colleges makes students believe that the competition would be less, but it is not always so," says Gandhi

UPSWING IN NUMBERS



FAQ time

Queries addressed

Though there is some time for the NEET-UG exam to begin, we address the queries students might have about the various aspects of the exam

Q WHO CAN APPEAR?
In order to be eligible for the medical entrance exam, the candidates must have passed level 10+2 or equivalent with Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Biotechnology, and English as core subjects from a recognised board.

Q WHAT IS THE EXAM PATTERN?
NEET-UG comprises four subjects — Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology. Each subject will consist of two sections. Section A will consist of 35 questions and Section B will have 15 questions, out of which, candidates can choose to attempt any 10 questions. The candidates will have to attempt a total of 180 questions for 720 marks. The duration of the exam is three hours.

Q HOW MANY TIMES CAN ONE APPEAR FOR THE EXAM?
As per the National Testing Agency (NTA), the regulatory board for NEET-UG, there is no restriction on the number of attempts for the exam.

Q WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AGE TO APPLY FOR NEET 2023 EXAM?
Only candidates who are 17 years old or above can appear for NEET-UG, there is no upper limit for the exam. Until last year, the exam had a 25-year age cap for the students appearing for the pre-medical entrance test which was scrapped.

Q ARE NEET SCORES VALID ONLY FOR ADMISSION IN INDIA?
No, NEET scores are also valid for admission to MBBS courses abroad. The validity of the score in such cases is extended upto three years. However, for admission in Indian medical colleges, the NEET score is valid for a year only.

Q WHAT WILL BE THE MEDIUM OF THE QUESTION PAPER?
The exam is being conducted in English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. Option of medium of question paper is chosen while filling the application form itself. Do note, the option once chosen cannot be changed.

FULL-THROTTLE PREPARATIONS ARE ON

Students talk about how they are gearing up for one of the biggest medical entrance examinations in India

VOX pop

SHREYANSH JAIN, Uttar Pradesh
It's my first time appearing for the exam and since the exam date is almost here, my strategy is to just solve mock tests and previous years' question papers. Studying for such a high-level exam can be challenging. Hence, to refresh myself, I just talk to my friends and watch a series with short episodes which I've already watched, so that I can pause it anytime I want. I mostly avoid something new and lengthy. My goal is to score a government MBBS college seat in Delhi and as far as specialisation goes, I haven't really thought that far yet

GAURI RITESH BAHETI, Maharashtra
I study seven to eight hours daily and my coaching time is from 6 am to 1.30 pm. I give three hours to each subject—Physics, Chemistry and Biology. I solve question papers in one and half hours as NTA gives three hours and 20 minutes. I have also practised on the OMR sheet. My weakness is Physics so I tend to focus more on it. I take a break of half an hour and sing songs. My goal is MBBS

AZIM AHAMED, Kerala
I usually don't follow any unique strategy for the preparation of NEET exam. Mainly, I pay attention to the teacher's suggestion, and the notes given by them. It's my first time attending the NEET UG examination. So, it is very challenging. Physics section is the toughest among all. But most of the questions in biology are confusing too

AARUSH YADAV, UP
I find NEET preparation very stressful for an average student and try to engage in sports to freshen up in between my preparation. I am focusing on the revision of all chapters in each subject, especially on topics that have high weightage. I am also dedicated to solving previous year's question papers

SURAJ SANTOSH WAG, Maharashtra
This year will be my second attempt, but last year, due to Covid, I could not take up any coaching so this is the first time I am properly preparing for NEET. I work hard the whole week and reserve Sundays for refreshing myself. My goal is MBBS. I will not settle for any other option

FARZEEN IBRAHIM, Kerala
I am appearing for NEET for the second time. I have been attending coaching classes since Class XI for preparations. I focus mostly on NCERT textbooks and practice Multiple-Choice Questions on a daily basis. I take mock tests if I'm bored. MBBS is my goal

PREETI ROY, Delhi
My preparations are suffering because of the NTA website. It wasn't working for days and though I want to appear for NEET, I haven't been able to register. Before this happened, I dedicated about 12-15 hours to studying. This is my first NEET attempt and I find Physics the most challenging. MBBS is my first preference, but BDS would also be great

RISHI JHA, New Delhi
This is my first attempt and I want to pursue MBBS. My preparation strategy for NEET is simple, opting for self-study after undertaking coaching from Allen. Inorganic Chemistry is tough for me because the portion in IOC (Institute of Organic Chemistry) is huge. In my free time that I get between my study sessions, I try to maintain my sleep cycle

NASHRA KHAN, Bihar
Since this is Ramzan time, my preparations are not going as they used to. Now, I spend about six to eight hours studying and take short breaks. I don't take help from videos or any other source. It's all self-study. To relax, I spend time with my sister and take a walk in the park. This is my first NEET attempt, but I started preparing after Class XI

SAKSHI SHARMA, UP
I study for 12-14 hours a day. Honestly, I don't find much time for relaxation, but spending time with family members often suffices. This is my second NEET attempt. Physics is the most challenging subject for me, especially the numerical part; theory isn't very difficult. I will be opting for MBBS and it is my wish to study Dermatology later

REMYA M RAJU, Kerala
This is the first time I'm appearing for NEET. I am solving previous years' questions and model question papers to prepare for it. I find Physics to be the most challenging. I scroll through Instagram during breaks. My goal is to be a veterinary surgeon

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Secretary replaced

On April 17, 1969, Alexander Dubcek was removed as First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia by the Central Committee and replaced by Gustav Husak

FORCED TO RESIGN

Dubcek was forced to resign by the Soviet forces. The staunchly pro-Soviet Husak's appointment, reestablished an authoritarian communist dictatorship

THE OUTCOME

Husak carried out a process of "normalisation", with massive purges, a ban on travelling to the West and the creation of a "crime against the socialist economy"

BACK TO PROMINENCE

Dubcek returned to prominence in Czech's national affairs in December 1989 after the country's Communist Party agreed to participate in a coalition government

Check out what's happening in the city

PG 2

Avin Thaliath (@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE. The first prize winner this week will win a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Malgudi Mylari Mane **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Chhurpi-Ningro Curry
2) Ottaladu 3) Kyat

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Surabhi S
2) Ranjana R
3) Ravi M

RCB's performance has always been either the highest of highs or the lowest of lows. They win very big matches, and they lose easy matches...When the team wins, everything is great and everyone says 'Ee sala cup namde' and when they lose a couple of matches, fans are like 'This team is never going to win anything'

Shubham Bhat, technical support engineer

If CSK ups the ante in terms of bowling, they can easily win. The excitement that RCB vs CSK matches bring, has always been similar to India vs Pakistan matches. So the stakes are really high

Aditi Pohekar, data scientist

BATTLE ROYALE

The anticipation for today's match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings is just as much as India vs Pakistan matches say cricket-crazy fans as the two teams get ready to lock horns

DESE GOWDA

THE IPL 2023 season is abuzz with excitement as Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) prepare to face each other in what promises to be a riveting match at the Chinnaswamy stadium. With tickets for the match having long sold out, fans are reportedly scrambling to buy tickets from the black market, oftentimes paying more than ten times the original price for the cheapest tickets (₹1,700).

Fans of both teams are eagerly anticipating this encounter, as it is the only time they will meet during the league stage. Shubham Bhat, a technical support engineer, says the match against CSK is one of the biggest for RCB, and hopes that the latter can pull off a victory on home turf to steer back towards the path to the playoffs. But he admits that rooting for the team can be a double-edged sword, given RCB's swings in performance. "RCB's performance has always been either the highest of highs or the lowest of lows. They win very big matches, and they lose easy matches. So the team's relationship with fans has always been hot and cold. When the team wins, everything is great and everyone says 'Ee sala cup namde' and when they lose a couple of matches, fans are like 'This team is never going to win anything'," he says, adding that MS Dhoni's presence will mean that CSK will be a formidable foe for RCB.

Sanjee Sumanth, an IT professional and fellow RCB fan agrees. "The toss will have a huge impact on RCB's fortunes. Chinnaswamy Stadium is punishing bowlers, so if RCB can avoid batting first and limit the score to a reasonable target, they can easily chase given how well the batsmen have done so far this season," Sumanth shares.

According to 25-year-old Kushal M, a perfusion technology intern, RCB lacks consistent form, making it their biggest weakness. "But whenever they play at Chinnaswamy Stadium they seem to win. So, I'm confident that they'll be able to defeat CSK if they play their cards right," he adds.

Meanwhile, CSK fans in Bengaluru are confident that their 'Thala' will lead their favourite team to victory. "This is most likely Dhoni's last IPL and the way he has approached the season shows that he's very determined. Whatever mistakes they've made so far, they've worked to rectify them, so they should be strong during the match in Bengaluru," says Madhumitha Dhanasekaran, a marketing professional.

Dhanasekaran concedes that CSK's task will not be easy given RCB's strong lineup. "RCB's lineup is surprisingly strong this season, but for some reason, they're not able to make it work. For CSK, it'll still be a tough match, but I'm confident they can defeat RCB," she says.

Aditi Pohekar, a data scientist believes CSK's weak point lies in its bowling lineup. "If CSK ups the ante in terms of bowling, they can easily win. The excitement that RCB vs CSK matches bring, has always been similar to India vs Pakistan matches. So the stakes are really high," she adds.

A multidisciplinary artiste, who shuttles between Brooklyn and Sydney, tries to create glass vessels that symbolise the Tamil alphabets inspired by her Jaffna heritage

MONIKA MONALISA

Touch of glass

PRINITA Thevarajah equates glass blending to meditation. In a recently-conducted workshop in the city, the multidisciplinary artiste shared the art form which interested and intrigued many. Thevarajah uses the blowtorch technique to create glassware that celebrates the uniqueness of simple shapes.

Thevarajah, who lives and works between Sydney and Brooklyn, tries to explore her Sri Lankan roots through her work. She is known by her brand Kapu, meaning bangle in Tamil. Her work is inspired by her Jaffna heritage, as she creates glass vessels that symbolise the Tamil alphabets. Having always hoped to create art using her own hands, she wanted to create something that showcases her ever-evolving identity.

Thevarajah mentions that the idea for her first workshop in India came about as a collaboration with No Borders, a community that tries to create a sustainable marketplace to bring together diversity in fashion, culture, and art. "A lot of my sales come from people in India. The thing about shipping is that it can be very fragile and Indian customs are a challenge. No Borders wanted me to come over and do some workshops with them," says Thevarajah, adding she will be going back to New York and London to do some workshops.

Elaborating about the blowtorch method, she says, "You have to work on your breath and it is physically taxing. It makes you aware of your body. In my class, I've always been open about that. It's a way for people to combine body awareness with the creation of something new," explains Thevarajah, who uses fun colours. She further adds, "People associate it with danger because of fire and glass so it can feel a bit intimidating but I try to make it beginner-friendly."

She started her journey initially by making neon glasses while living in New York. "I was doing a Masters in Arts Education and I couldn't afford living in New York so I started taking classes. It is a dying art now since people opt for LED electronics since neon glasses are clogged with gas. I started playing with the glass and posted it on my Instagram handle and lots of people were interested in buying it. So I decided to sell and somehow eventually started making vases, candles, and flowers. Some people were really drawn to it," says Thevarajah, who started practising in 2018, and started teaching in 2022.

BIG MOVES FOR TINY TOTS

Instructor Aparna Mudiyanur is on a mission to popularise Zumbini, a music, dance and edu movement

STENI SIMON

WE might have heard about Zumba, a fun and high-energy workout experience that keeps us excited and returning for more. But here's a twist to Zumba and that's Zumbini, an early childhood programme that benefits children cognitively, emotionally, physically, and socially through the use of music and movement. "It is a fun, interactive, play-based, yet structured programme that engages children using music, movement, and basic rhythmic instruments," says Bengaluru-based, **Aparna Mudiyanur**, who pursued a Zumbini certification course from California, USA, and will be taking a session this month.

This particular movement exercise is of two types – the traditional one which involves a 45-minute session filled with music and dance for children until the age of 4 and their parents or caregivers. "But the other type involves children with their peers which goes up to 14 weeks," shares the 35-year-old instructor.

Becoming a Zumbini instructor was just by chance, says Mudiyanur. "For over six years, I was abroad with my family. In 2020 during the pandemic, I was looking for some activity online for my two-year-old daughter. I came across Zumbini founded by Zumba and Babyfirst, which used original music to make it a fun and bonding experience for children and caregivers. The word 'Zumbini' itself caught my attention and I wanted to explore it further," said Mudiyanur, adding "After we enrolled, I could actually see how happy my daughter was after the session. This prompted me to become a Zumbini instructor."

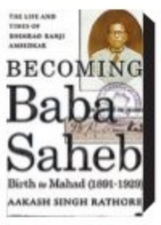
She completed a certification course from Zumbini, an early education programme for kids, and took online sessions for kids abroad. Mudiyanur moved to Bengaluru last year in April and she says, "Zumbini has a lot of benefits which includes social and emotional development. Being a group activity, it makes children feel a part of the group. It enhances their social skills and the music evokes different feelings in children. It also helps in physical development where motor skills are enhanced by using different musical instruments. It also helps in cognitive development where music and movement help children use logic and creativity. For example: how to make the scarf fly like the wind, create patterns with the words they sing, think symbolically when they pretend to walk like animals."

CITY READ

Special menu introduced for Ramadan

Courtyard by Marriott Outer Ring Road has announced its upcoming Ramadan fast-break dinner at Momo Cafe. Ramadan Iftar-dinner is an indulgent feast of traditional and modern delicacies to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. The menu includes sarbaat, thandai sarbat, rooh afza, a cut fruit platter, and three types of dates for starters. The salad selection comprises tabbouleh, baba ganoush, hummus, pitta bread, labaneh, and shirazi salad. The menu for the main course includes dolma, shahjhani dodhiya kofta korma, mattar ka nimuna, murgh reshmi dumpukth, awadhi lamb korma, dejaj pilaf, and mujadara. The mahebbar nawazi nasta is an evening feature with dishes such as patti keema samosa, tawa pitha kokkur, dejaj seekh kebab, warqi paratha, and vegetable kibbeh. For dessert, the menu has items like assidat-al-boubar, knafeh, baklava, sheer korma, and khajur ka halwa.

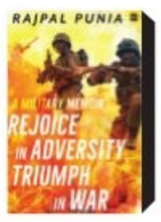
BOOK NOOK



Becoming Babasaheb

by Aakash Singh Rathore

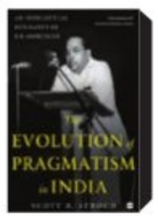
This is the definitive biography of Ambedkar – the first of an ambitious two-volume set – and the only one written on the basis of entirely original archival research, to be able to correct and set the historical record straight.



Rejoice In Adveristy, Triumph In War

by Maj Gen Rajpal Punia

It is a testament to how the army is not a livelihood but a way of life, one that can transport you from a social soiree to a dangerous jungle in the space of a night.



The Evolution of Pragmatism in India

By Scott R. Stroud

Scott R. Stroud – an international authority on Ambedkar – delivers a comprehensive exploration of the influence of John Dewey's pragmatism on Bhimrao Ambedkar and how the latter developed his own approach to challenges in India.

The Bandit Queens

by Parini Shroff

Filled with clever criminals, second chances, and wry and witty women, Parini Shroff's The Bandit Queens is a razor-sharp debut of humor and heart that readers won't soon forget.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Cricket O'Licious

This restaurant has introduced a new menu celebrating the IPL season. Googly garlic bread, hat-trick hummus platter, super over haleem samosa, mango masterstroke shrikhand gateaux and much more are available.

WHERE: Raahi Neo Kitchen & Bar, Ashok Nagar **WHEN:** April 18, 1pm **DETAILS:** 9620347095

Colour Splash

A canvas painting workshop where beginners can learn how to paint on wood using acrylic paint. All the necessary materials will be provided. **WHERE:** Art Beat, HSR Layout **WHEN:** April 19, 6pm **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Go Rafting

Monks On Wheels, the official adventure partner of KSTDC (Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation) brings you a water rafting experience in Kali River at Dandeli, an ideal vacation destination in North Karnataka surrounded by deciduous forests and wildlife habitat. **WHERE:** Monks On Wheels, Mathikere **WHEN:** April 21, 9pm **DETAILS:** highape.com

Summer Fun

Thinkernauts, a summer camp for children aged 7 to 14 years is a three-session programme of 80 minutes per session that will include making, breaking/disassembling as well as learning tools and techniques.

WHERE: Popsicle Studios, Cunningham Road **WHEN:** May 1, 3pm **DETAILS:** 8867397171

Music Beats

The Kala Premi Foundation is organising a music workshop on Dasarapadas, Devaranamas, and Sugama Sangeetha in Carnatic style. The workshop will be conducted by Pustakam Ramaa. **WHERE:** Guruskool, Malleswaram **WHEN:** May 8, 11am **DETAILS:** 9901073406

Sporty Feast

Check out specials like tenderloin chilli nachos, peri peri mushroom sliders, barbeque pork spare ribs, brewhouse salad, the loaded merk burger, bao wraps, and a summer range of beers to celebrate the IPL season.

WHERE: The Merak Brewhouse, JW Marriott Bengaluru **WHEN:** April 17, 7pm **DETAILS:** 8884497036

Dramatic Play

Komal Theatre presents *Draupathi*, a mega theatrical Tamil Production about the epic woman in the Mahabharata through music, dance, and drama. The play depicts how this woman of Dvapara Yuga is deceived by circumstances, how she is torn between the power struggle and the ego of men, and how she is forced to accept situations for the sake of men around her. **WHERE:** Bengaluru Gayana Samaaja, Basavanagudi **WHEN:** April 22, 6pm **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Summer trends

The Shop launches the 'Malmal Mela' which has a collection of soft and skin-friendly clothes made of muslin specially designed for summer. **WHERE:** Raintree, Sankey Road **WHEN:** April 20, 10am **DETAILS:** 9810106258

COLOURS OF JOY

A street vendor selling colourful balloons on a busy street of Mosque Road at Fraser Town in the city. | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

QUICK FIX

GONDHORAJ CHICKEN FRY

Contributed by **Debjyoti Sarkar,** Murshidabad

INGREDIENTS

- **Chicken:** 300 g
- **Lemon:** 2 piece
- **Curd for buttermilk:** 2/3 spoon filled with water and salt
- **Salt:** 1 spoon
- **All purpose flour:** 3 tbsp
- **Corn flour:** 1 tbsp
- **Egg:** 1

METHOD

- Slice the chicken pieces in the shape of fries.
- Soak them in buttermilk for 15-20 minutes.
- Add lemon juice+ lemon zest.
- Take flour and corn flour in 3:1 ratio add salt and red chilli powder.
- Whisk one egg. Take marinated chicken slices dip in egg then coat with flour mix.
- Fry them in hot oil.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

UTKATASANA ARMS FORWARD
(CHAIR POSE ARMS FORWARD)

This variation is for students who lose balance and stability when the arms are raised. Helps those with a tight neck and shoulders, or who find breathing an issue when the arms are raised. Can be done by senior citizens, kids and pregnant women.

STEPS

- Stand in Tadasana (Mountain Pose), exhale and slowly come towards the floor while stretching the arms out in front of you in Utkatasana.
- Then, exhale and bend the knees, taking the tail bone out along with the sacrum, slowly lower the hips to go in a half squat.
- Make sure that the knees don't go beyond the foot. Sit here balancing the body while taking the arms out in front of you, parallel to the floor.
- Remain the pose here for about 4 breaths.
- Release the pose, then go back into the second round.
- This pose helps to keep the hips, thighs and knees active, with delivery the joints can begin to lose their flexibility and become tight.
- It is a great pose for the hips and with awareness it helps to improve balance thus building focus and self-confidence.

LIMITATIONS

If you have knee injury or lower back pain, arthritis, insomnia, headache or sprained ankles, avoid this.

During menstruation and low blood pressure, avoid this asana.

BENEFITS

- Helps remain longer, building strength in the legs and stability with the hips.
- Entire lower body, hips, abdomen, lower back, and arms are engaged.
- Various muscles are strengthened, bringing stability in the spine too.
- Helps runners, paddle boarding, swimmers, or rock climbers.
- Keep symptoms related to arthritis under control.
- Benefits kids who are into various kinds of dancing, or sports.
- Strengthens the thighs and brings flexibility to your thighs.
- Increases lung capacity.
- Activates the Svadisthana (Sacral) Chakra, which is associated with creativity and determination.
- It is thought to foster inner acceptance and promote focus and productivity.
- Strengthens the torso and lower back while stretching the upper back.
- Tones and stabilizes knee and ankle joints.
- Helps to energise your entire body.
- Gives the hips, spine, and chest muscles a good stretch.
- Gives the abdominal organs a good massage and stimulates the diaphragm and the heart.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

HAPPY FAMILY, CONDITIONS APPLY
(Hindi, series)

The Dholakia family household have four generations living under one roof; together, they navigate the many ups and downs of their lives.

Cast: Ratna Pathak Shah, Raj Babbar, Atul Kulkarni, Ayesha Jhulka

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

GASLIGHT
(Hindi)

Misha returns to her royal family estate after 15 years to visit her estranged father, only to find him missing.

Cast: Sara Ali Khan, Chitrangada Singh, Vikrant Massey

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

REPEAT (Telugu)

Officer Vikram Kumar sets out to investigate a bizarre missing case that replicates the story from a novel.

Cast: Naveen Chandra, Madhoo, Smruthi Venkat

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

RUN BABY RUN (Tamil)

A happy-go-lucky guy with a simplistic view of life becomes caught up in a myriad of tricky situations and a race against time.

Cast: RJ Balaji, Isha Talwar, Aishwarya Rajesh

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

KANJOOS MAKHICHOOS
(Hindi)

Jamnaprasad Pandey is infamous in the entire town as a miser whose family is fed up with his penny-pinching habits. However, little does the family know that these savings are to fulfill his father's wish of going on a char-dham yatra.

Cast: Shweta Tripathi, Kunal Khemmu, Alka Amin, Piyush Mishra

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

TAJ: DIVIDED BY BLOOD
(Hindi, series)

The series follows the dark side of the story of the Mughal empire and its emperors.

Cast: Ashim Gulati, Aditi Rao Hydari, Naseeruddin Shah, Sandhya Mridul

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

ROMANCHAM (Malayalam)

While seven bachelors are living in Bangalore in 2007, Jiby brings out the Ouija board. They attempt to communicate with spirits, and a ghost named Anamika makes contact.

Cast: Arjun Ashokan, Sajin, Soubin Shahir, Adithya Bhaskar

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

FOREIGN

THE NIGHT AGENT (English, series)

While monitoring an emergency line, an FBI agent answers a call that plunges him into a deadly conspiracy involving a mole at the White House.

Cast: Gabriel Basso, Luciane Buchanan, Eve Harlow, Sarah Desjardins

- **Watch on:** Netflix

DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA
(Japanese)

It follows teenager Tanjiro Kamado, who strives to become a Demon Slayer after his family was slaughtered and his younger sister Nezuko, turned into a demon.

Cast: Takahiro Sakurai, Natsuki Hanae, Akari Kito

- **Watch on:** Netflix

PROM PACT (English)

It is the height of prom season, but high school senior Mandy Yang has her sights set on a singular goal: attending Harvard. When she finds out she has been deferred, she is determined to do whatever she can to get herself off the waitlist.

Cast: Peyton Elizabeth Lee, Milo Manheim, Blake Draper, Monique Green

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

UP HERE (English, series)

Set in New York City in 1999, Lindsay and Miguel fall in love and discover that the single greatest obstacle to finding happiness together might just be themselves – and the memories, obsessions, fears, and fantasies that lives inside their heads.

Cast: Mae Whitman, Scot Porter, Sophia Hammons

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

SUBSCRIPTION

ZEE5:	₹799 per year
Prime Video:	₹179 per month
Disney+Hotstar:	₹199 for 3 months
Netflix:	₹149 per month

PIONEERS OF THE PALETTE

IN THE LIGHT OF WORLD ART DAY ON APRIL 15, WE TURN BACK THE PAGES OF HISTORY AND LOOK AT FIVE TRAILBLAZING ARTISTS, WHO PUT THEIR ART ON THE WORLD MAP

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

ART must most probably be one of the easiest professions in the universe. With no corporate ladders to climb, no accounts sheets to be balanced or formulas to be tested, all it takes is to be in the mood and create. Simple, isn't it? Well, the finest masterpieces and the loudest statements do not rest on smooth foundations. They have all risen from the relentless struggles of artists who never believed in the insurmountable. In the light of World Art Day (April 15), here's a look at some of them who have broken barriers and opened up new horizons for those who followed.

THE FIRST WOMAN GRADUATE OF FINE ARTS IN INDIA

Art still struggles with being recognised as a career path, often drowning in the sea of other competitive careers. Imagine then, way back in 1931, especially considering the social restrictions for a woman! Ambika Dhurandhar, however, would have none of those and went on to become the first woman to get a degree in Fine Arts. She was also offered a fellowship at the Royal Society of Art, London. Her paintings have been exhibited all over the world and continue to inspire generations.

THE FIRST ASIAN TO WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE

He is on all our lips every time we sing the national anthem with pride. Rabindranath Tagore was not only a poet and writer but also an acclaimed artist. Starting to paint late in life at the age of 60, he initially started with doodling as he wrote, trying to form decipherable shapes out of lines. His love for nature gradually led him onto the path of landscapes and when he painted humans, it was with all the intensity of a multitude of emotions. Painting over 2,000 works in his lifetime, Tagore was the first non-European to ever win the Nobel Prize for literature and that too in the year 1913, when Indians were not considered award-worthy.

INDIA'S FIRST WOMAN ABSTRACT ARTIST

Back in a time when women were generally expected to draw or paint pretty pictures, Nasreen Mohamedi broke all stereotypes when she took to abstract art in the 1960s. An independent woman, she came to be known for her simple black-and-white line drawings. Patterns interested her and even her sarees proclaimed this love. Her artworks were never dated or signed, a sign of her refusal to categorise them. Though her artworks have been exhibited in the world's most prestigious galleries and museums, she did not get the recognition she deserved during her lifetime. Her failing health due to a neurological disorder made drawing a very difficult task but she continued to do so against all odds. She passed away at the age of 53, leaving behind a blazing trail for many women artists after her to follow.

THE MAN WHO BROKE ALL RECORDS

When an untitled 1969 painting by Vasudeo Gaitonde was sold at an auction last year for `42 crore, it broke all records for Indian modern or contemporary art. The artist in question, VS Gaitonde, would hardly have been affected by the frenzied buzz had he been alive, as that was how he lived his life — quietly reclusive and unhurried. A man of few words, his canvases were his statements. His paintings were non-representational and in his own words, was his total experience of life. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1972, but the world knows him better as an Indian artist with multiple record-breaking auction sales. This in turn was a boost for Indian art as a whole. Success comes only with perseverance – a lesson we've all been taught right through school. Who can forget answering all those questions about Robert Bruce and the spider and the need to never give up? The real world isn't as kind as those school lessons. It is easier to give up when life throws its challenges at you and to just try and fit in. The individuals above trodden paths that did not even exist before they carved them for themselves.

THE JEWISH ARTIST WHO BROKE BARRIERS

In the 17th century, Florence did not treat its Jews kindly. They lived in ghettos and education or being part of any guild was unthinkable. Jobs like rag-picking were all that were assigned to them. In this scenario, Jewish artist Jona Ostiglio was not only a member of a prestigious academy but also painted for some of the most powerful families in Italy then. How he broke through those social norms and succeeded as an artist remains a puzzle for art historians.

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Indian mytho video games have arrived

Ah, video games and mythology — an established combination like *dosae* and chutney. God of War has had its day in the sun with its games drawing inspiration from Greek, and most recently Nordic mythology. Assassins' Creed knew how to myth things up too, by incorporating legendary tales and equipment from historical eras across the world. I've often wondered at the tantalising absence of Indian mythology in video games. Why not? It has it all — a tapestry of characters, gory descriptions of monsters and battles, and juicy gossip. At it's best, it was represented in Uncharted: The Lost Legacy, but as a glorified DLC — an afterthought, like green tea in the menu of a coffee shop. And so, I remained hopeless, till Raji: An Ancient Epic released in 2020. It's a shame that I forgot about it for 3 years. But now, the game has been given a second wind, with a release on iOS and Android via Netflix Games.

The game follows a young Raji, left alone in an empty town, her brother having been kidnapped by the evil Mahabalasura. A tiny frame, long hair braided into a pigtail, and her anklets jangling as she prances around the screen, I was surprised at her being able to carry a trident, let alone masterfully fight with it. While she travels across the city, various monsters spawn, stopping her from moving ahead. The combat reminds me of the older God of War games, since we view Raji's journey through a fixed-camera perspective. The similarity does not stop there — the game also has collectible power- ups, numerous puzzles, and increasingly terrifying monsters as you go ahead.

In just a short span of five hours, Raji covers an impressive amount of ground. The journey starts with a dilapidated city, moves on to a stunning palace where everyone seems to be hypnotised, ventures into overgrown ruins, and finally leads us to an endless desert — where she finally faces the evil Mahabalasura. The story is narrated by the gods Durga and Vishnu, who guide Raji along the way and provide her with new weapons to combat the enemies. While the boss battles are limited, it was exciting enough to keep me engaged, and wanting more even after completing the game. I can hardly wait to play it again in the challenging modes!

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

This principal speaks on the dire changes that need to happen at a policy level to improve India's education system

EXPRESS FEATURES

WHAT does it mean to be excellent? Is it a multi-fold concept? How does one chase it? These are some of the questions that KC Mishra, principal and director of Sambhram Academy of Management Studies (SAMS), has always wondered about. Unfortunately, most of his questions remain unanswered. So Mishra took it upon himself to crack the code.

"I never wanted to confine myself to the 'good', 'better' or 'best' qualitatives. I try to incorporate that into my students too. I teach PG students and urge them to go beyond the course material. I believe in Sri Aurobindo's school of thought that nothing can be taught and the teacher's job as a guide is to suggest and not impose," shares Mishra, who has been working in Bengaluru since 2003.

He has been teaching students for 34 years with 20 years of it being in the city. "Nowadays, we see students coming in not only from India but across the world. There is definitely an opportunity for a student and a teacher to learn from each other. Sadly, we have become morally focused towards a degree-oriented way of teaching. That mars our attempts to achieve excellence," he says, who hails from Puri, Odisha.

This problem, Mishra believes, is at the core of our education system, and there is no easy solution. "India produces almost three lakh MBAs per year, but more than 50 per cent of them are unemployable as they lack the required skills for placement. We, teachers, are responsible. In my opinion, companies should adopt certain colleges. There should be a give-and-take policy between them, so students can be nurtured in their course work itself," he explains.

Mishra is close to completing 12 years as the principal and director of SAMS. After having achieved so much, is he still striving for excellence? "I still have a lot to contribute to higher education. I will be completing 12 years at SAMS by August, and I feel my work here is done. Now, I would like to look ahead. I am still hoping to contribute in a different way and at the policy level," he concludes, adding that he is in the process of writing a book.

K C Mishra

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHRAVANI S DAPTARDAR.** D/o. Shashikant D Daptardar, Age 21 years, Residing at No-408, 4th Floor, 47/1, Sai Brindavan Enclave, Poojari Garden, Channasandara, Rajarajeshwarinagar Bengaluru-98. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHRAVANI DAPTARDAR TO SHRAVANI S DAPTARDAR.** vide affidavit dated 15/04/2023 sworn before advocate & Notary S.R. ThulasiKrishna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) MONIKA ANIL PATEL,** residing at No. 4, 5th Cross, 4th Main, Bilekahalli, Dollars Layout, NS Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) MONIKA ANIL PATEL** to **(NEW NAME) MONIKA PATEL** vide affidavit Dated 15/04/2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHETAN PRAKASH S PIRGAL residing at No. 48/4, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Shankar Mutt Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore-560004, have changed my minor son's name from **DEVAANSH PIRGAL to DEVAANSH C PIRGAL**, vide affidavit dated 13.04.2023, sworn before notary B.K.R Krishnamurthy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NIPUN Y,** S/o Yadukumar .B, age 19 years, R/at No. 159/Y, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, 7th Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560 085 do hereby declare that my correct name is **NIPUN .Y,** my father name is "YADUKUMAR", hence my name is **NIPUN .Y,** where Y stands for YADUKUMAR, now I have changed my name from **NIPUN** to **NIPUN .Y,** vide affidavit dated 15th April 2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N NAGAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RITIKA SINHA,** DOB: 18.08.1975, W/o. Mr. Satya Prakash Srivastav, presently residing at Flat No. L-301, 'Purva Fountain Square', Varthur Main Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560 037, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RITIKA SRIVASTAV** to **RITIKA SINHA** vide affidavit dated 15.04.2023 sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHOBHA PATIL,** W/o. Dayanand Patil, Aged about 45 years, Residing at # 663, 17th Main, 27th Cross, Judicial Layout, GKVK Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore North - 560 065, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHOBHA .S** to **SHOBHA PATIL** vide affidavit dated 13.04.2023 sworn to before G.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Advocate & Notary, Government of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RIYA JOSE KONIKKARA,** W/o. Shaju Krishnan Nair, R/o. No. 353, 2nd Main, 3rd Croas, Duo Marvel Layout, Ananthapura, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru- 560064, have changed my name from **RIYA JOSE KONIKKARA** to **RIYA SHAJU NAIR,** vide affidavit dated: 16/04/2023, sworn before Notary Public, **K.H. Jagadish**, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANSAR PASHA, S/o. MOHAMMED GHOUSE, Resident of No 68, 1st Main,17th Cross, near Saraswathi School, Bapujinagar, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, karnataka-560026, have changed my name to**
M ANSAR PASHA
Vide affidavit dated 13-04-2023 sworn before Advocate & Notary K.C. Shashikala,, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUDHARANI GHASANE.** W/o. Mallikarjun Ghasane, Age 32 years, Residing at No-402, 5th Floor, Neelanjan Apartment, ISEC Main Road, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-72 . do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUDHARANI TO SUDHARANI GHASANE.** vide affidavit dated 15/04/2023 sworn before advocate & Notary S.R. ThulasiKrishna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
WE, G.R.MANJUNATH & G.ASHA, residing at No. 25, R.R.School Road, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru -560097, have changed my Minor Son's name from **G.M.NARAHARI SAI** to **G.M.NISHANTH SAI** vide affidavit Dated 05/04/2023 sworn before Notary P.N.Nagesha, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HAMSAVENI** (New Name), aged about 37 years, W/o. KUMAR, RESIDING AT NO.11, HORAMAVU, HORAMAVU AGARA, BENGALURU-560043, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **M.HAMSAVENI** (Old Name) to **HAMSAVENI** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **HAMSAVENI** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 15/04/2023 before Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N.** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, hitherto known as **RAJ ATUL GALA**, S/o ATUL SHANTILAL GALA, R/o C001, Raheja Park, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore-560 079, Karnataka, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **RAAJ TEJ A GALA,** vide affidavit dated 10th April 2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. NAGAPPA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Umaram .G** S/o Genaram Sencha, aged about 43 years, residing at No. 219, 5th Cross, 6th Phase, Mahaganapathi-nagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 010, do hereby declare that my correct name is **Umaram .G**, but name is mentioned in my passport **Umaram** and letter **G** left out in previous passport. Vide affidavit dated 15.04.2023 sworn to before H.H. Nagaraj, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **RESHMA R SACHDEV**, Aged about 35 years, D/o. Mr. Rajkumar Manoharlal Sachdev, W/o. Harish Kumar, Resident of No. # 12126, Tower 12, Prestige Song of South Apartment, Begur-Koppa Road, Bengaluru - 560 068, do hereby declare that, **RESHMA R SACHDEV, RESHMA RAJKUMAR** and **RESHMA R** are one and same person and the name **RESHMA R SACHDEV** shall be used for all purposes in future. Vide affidavit dated 14.04.2023 sworn to before Jain Swarnamala, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Anil Vittalrao** S/o S.Vittal Rao, and **Smt. Archana B** W/o Anil Vittalrao, residents of No.210, 2nd Floor, B Block, Elegant Valley, Gattigere Extension, BEML 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-560098, We declare that We have changed our Son's name from **'SHAARAV A (Old Name) to SHAARAV ANIL VASISHTA (New Name).** vide affidavit dated 15.04.2023, Sworn before advocate and notary N.Sandhya, Bengaluru-560038.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Rajalakshmy Krishnaswamy, W/o. Mr. Ravi Ramaswamy, aged about 51 years, R/at Flat No. OG-19, Paramount Raghavendra Arisht Apartment, Varthur Road, Kundalahalli Gate, Bengaluru-560037, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **'RAJALAKSHMY KRISHNASWAMY'** to **'RAJALAKSHMI RAVI'** vide Affidavit dated 15/4/2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary Indira S.S, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **KUMITHA RAMI REDDY** Son of Koti Reddy Kummitha resident of No. 18, ANUGRAHA, Ground floor, 6th Main, Bahubalinagar, Jalahalli post, Bangalore Karanataka-560013.have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **KUMMITHA RAMI REDDY** for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 30.03.2023 before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SUSAN BABU,** W/o. Babukutty Samuel, Rank: Ex-CPO (Indian Navy) No. 109326-W, residing at No. 43, Lakshmi Nilayam, 1st Cross, Muniveerappa Layout, Shampura, Arabic College-PO, Bangalore-560045, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SUSAN BABU** to **(NEW NAME) SUSAN BABUKUTTY** vide affidavit Dated 25/03/2023 sworn before Notary S.R.Nanjunda Swamy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **LEEJA,** D/o Sathyavan, legally wedded spouse of Anil Prasad V, presently R/at # 32, Pranavam, 3rd Cross, Maruthy Layout, MS Palya, Vidyaranyapura PO, Bangalore, Karnataka-560097 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **LEEJA** and **LEEJA ANIL** are one and the same and refers to me only, now I have changed my name from **LEEJA** to **LEEJA ANIL,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **LEEJA ANIL** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6-4-2023, sworn before Court of Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bangalore -560 009

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEVYANI MHATRE,** D/o. Sri. Bharat K. Mhatre, Aged about 35 years, Residing at No. 001, Ochre, MEG Officers Colony, Jeevanahalli Main Road, Banasawadi, Bangalore - 560 033, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEVYANI NIKHIL JADHAV** to **DEVYANI MHATRE** vide affidavit dated 11.04.2023 sworn to before M. Narendran, Advocate and Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **RAMAKRISHAN GAMPA**, Aged about 42 years, Parent of **GAMPA JAYARAM** Residing at #G-203, 3rd Floor, Gopalan Habitat Spendor, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru - 560 037, do hereby declare that, **GAMPA JAYARAM** is my son born on 23/02/2009 pursuing IX at Ryan International School, in his school records my name spelt inadvertently as **RAMAKRISHNA GAMPA** instead of **RAMAKRISHAN GAMPA** as per my Aadhar & Pan Card, child birth certificate. I hereby declare that my correct name is **RAMAKRISHAN GAMPA.** Vide affidavit dated 13.04.2023 sworn to before VI Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAZIA,** W/o. Abdul Shukoor, aged 81yrs, Residing at No. 953, New No. 548, 1st Cross, Behind Uqba Masjid, Thanisandra, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560077, have changed my name to **RAZIA BEGUM,** vide affidavit dated: 15.04.2023 before notary **GANGARAJU .B.N.,** Bengaluru.

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YASH-GEETU MOHANDAS PROJECT ON THE CARDS

Yash

An official announcement about this collaboration is expected to be out soon

A SHARADHAA

JUST a year after the stupendous and unprecedented success of *KGF 2*, Yash was back in the news after speculations surrounding his next made the rounds. We had earlier reported that the project, referred as Yash 19, will be backed by KVN Productions. While Yash or the production house haven't announced details about their next, it has now come to light that critically acclaimed filmmaker Geetu Mohandas will be helming Yash 19.

A source close to the project confirmed the development, and if everything goes to plan, this will indeed be an exciting and unprecedented collaboration. Actor-filmmaker Geetu, known for her work in the National Award-winning film *Liar's Dice,* and the widely celebrated Nivin Pauly-starrer *Moothon,* has already made a name for her work in the National and International circuit. With the source revealing that the project discussions went on for over 6 months, it would be interesting to see how the world of Yash and Geetu come together. Interestingly, with both *Liar's DIce* and *Moothon*, winning awards in International film festivals, Yash could be training his focus on breaking into the International arena with this Geetu Mohandas project. Also, the film is expected to be shot by award-winning cinematographer and filmmaker Rajeev Ravi, who is Geetu's husband and has worked in both *Liar's Dice* and *Moothon*.

Considering the experienced and legacy names that were in the running to direct Yash 19, it has indeed come as a surprise to many that the Geetu-Yash project is on next. However, be it *Mr and Mrs Ramachari* with debutant Santhosh Ananddram or even the KGF franchise with the then one-film-old director *Prashanth Neel*, it is clear that the actor has always collaborated with relatively new filmmakers, and went on to deliver much-appreciated blockbusters with them.

An official announcement about this collaboration is expected to be out soon, and hopefully, put an end to long-standing speculations about the specifics of Yash 19.

Geetu Mohandas

'I prefer playing substantial roles'

.. says Mayuri Nataraja on playing the second lead in Chandrajith Beliappa's Ibbari Tabbida Ileyali

CE FEATURES

MAYURI Nataraja, who was recently seen in *Gurudev Hoysala,* is the latest to join the cast of *Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali*. Directed by Chandrajith Belliappa, the film is backed by Rakshit Shetty's Paramvah Studios. Actors Vihaan Gowda and Ankita Amar have already been announced as part of the cast.

Mayuri has almost completed filming her portions for *Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali,* and the team believes the role will be talked about after release. Talking about her role, Mayuri says, "My role as Radha comes as a major turning point in the film giving the plot an interesting twist." The actor is candid about enjoying being cast in pivotal roles. "I prefer playing roles that offer something substantial to the story," says the biotechnology student, who took a break from her line of work, and when she got an opportunity to take a plunge in films. "I enjoyed my 9 to 5 job, and I am equally enjoying facing the camera," says Mayuri, adding, "I would take up any character that I can connect with. I'm not in a hurry to do films nor am I doing projects just to keep myself busy. I just want to do quality stuff," she says.

Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali is billed as a poetic tale of romance that intends to celebrate unconditional love. The makers revealed that the film will capture the essence of yesterday's romance, the relevance of today's love, and the perpetual nature of love that can stand the test of the future.

The film's music is by Gagan Baderia, and DOP Srivathsan Selvarajan handles the cinematography.

Mayuri Nataraja

Geetha Bharathi Bhat's next titled *Ravike Prasanga*

A still from the film

The title of director Santhosh Kondenkeri's dramedy was launched by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR Santhosh Kondenkeri has finalised the title for his next. The poster of the film, titled *Ravike Prasanga,* was launched by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar recently, and the makers released an intriguing title teaser on Saturday. Set in the backdrop of Dakshina Kannada, the film is a courtroom drama that revolves around the protagonist Sanvi, who is looking for a groom and gets an NRI proposal for marriage. However, the twists come when she goes to the tailor to get a designer blouse stitched, and the two land up in court. What follows is a humorous roller coaster of events," says the filmmaker.

Ravike Prasanga's story and dialogues are penned by Santhosh's wife, Pavana, and will be the solo lead debut of noted teleserial actor and *Bigg Boss* contestant *Geetha Bharathi Bhat.* The film also has Suman Ranganath appearing as a judge, and Rakesh Maiyya as the lawyer. The film is expected to hit the screens this June.

With Sampath Maithria playing the tailor's role, Padmaja Rao, Krishna Murhti Kaatar, Praveen Atharva, Raghu Padeshwar, Kushi Achar, and Rahu Padeshwar, among others will also be part of the cast. Ravike Prasanga made under Drusti Media and Productions, has Vinay Sharma scoring the music, and will have cinematography by Muralidhar N.

Santhosh Kodenkeri, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar and Pavana

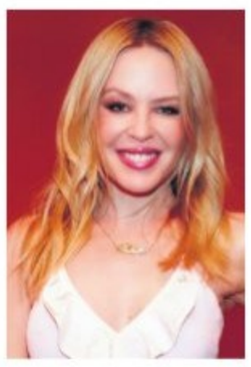
Kylie Minogue, Jane Curtin join Netflix's *The Residence*

CE FEATURES

KYLIE Minogue, Jane Curtin, James Babson, Paul Fitzgerald and Ros Gentle have been added to Shondaland and Netflix's upcoming series *The Residence*. The makers previously announced that Uzo Aduba will be heading the series. The Residence is a whodunnit set in and around the White House, with 132 rooms, one dead body and 157 suspects. One wildly eccentric detective played by Uzo Aduba takes it upon himself to solve the crime.

The previously announced cast members of *The Residence* are, Andre Braugher, Susan Kelechi Watson, Edwina Findley, Molly Griggs, Jason Lee, Ken Marino, Al Mitchell, Dan Perrault, Bronson Pinchot, Isiah Whitlock Jr., EL Losada, Matt Oberg, Ryan Farell, and Alexandra Siegel and Mary Wiseman.

The Residence is executive produced by Paul William Davies. Shonda Rhimes and Betsy Beers executive produce on behalf of Shondaland via the company's Netflix overall deal. Liza Johnson will direct the first four episodes. The series is currently in production.



A Quiet Place: Day One wrapped up filiming

CE FEATURES

A QUIET Place: Day One, a spin-off to the 2018 horror film *A Quiet Place,* wrapped up filming. The director of the film Michael Sarnoski announced the news through his Instagram handle.

Taking to Instagram by sharing a few photos from the set, Sarnoski wrote, " I can't properly express how much appreciation I feel for the incredible talents that came together to make this movie. I've felt challenged and supported in ways I'll always cherish. Thank you all for coming on this journey,"

A Quiet Place: Day One features Academy Award winner Lupita Nyong'o, Stranger Things breakout star Joseph Quinn, and Hereditary-fame Alex Wolff, among others.

Michael Sarnoski, who has previously helmed Nicolas Cage starrer Pig (2021), wrote *A Quiet Place: Day One* based on the idea of John Krasinski, who wrote and directed the first two films in the franchise, *A Quiet Place* and *A Quiet Place Part II.*

The film is backed by Michael Bay, Andrew Form and Brad Fuller through Platinum Dunes, along with John under his production banner Sunday Night.

A Quiet Place Part II opened to box office success and earned $297 million worldwide. *A Quiet Place: Day One* is currently scheduled to hit the theatres on March 8, 2024.